



Danby Church of England School
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Headteacher: Mrs E Orland

Newsletter Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to all of our school family, I hope you all had a wonderful summer. We have welcomed 8 new children into the Reception class and 1 child into Year 1. Everyone has settled in very well this week and have hopefully enjoyed their first experience of Primary School life.

For our new parents, the newsletter is our usual way of communicating with parents about what is happening in school so please do look out for it on a Friday afternoon at 3.30pm. We also send separate reminder emails if we feel it necessary during the week for some events.

Thank you for your kind words for Mrs Motteu whilst she has been poorly this week. Miss Hall has done a great job teaching the infants this week. Moving forward, Miss Hall will be remaining with us over the next three weeks whilst Mrs Motteu phases back into full time work after her illness.

Swimming

The whole school will be swimming at Whitby Leisure Centre next Thursday afternoon (17th September). Please can everyone remember their swimming kits that day. Thank you.

Wednesday Fun Club

Fun Club will commence next Wednesday 16th September after school and run until half term. This is a free club that is open to all children from Reception to Year 6 and there will be a variety of activities for the children to choose from. If you would like your child to stay, [please complete the form here](#). Please note that the free fun club will finish at 4.30pm and any children needing to stay later will then join Sunshine Club. Sunshine Club is available until 5.30pm and your child's Parentpay account will be charged £6.00 for the session.

Stay and Play Sessions

This term we will be holding two stay and play sessions in the infants for children who are not yet of school age but would like to spend an hour with us to see how things happen at Danby School. These are scheduled for the following dates:

Monday 12th October 2.15pm - 3.15pm

Tuesday 10th November 10.30am - 11.30am

If you know of anyone who would like to come along to these sessions, please ask them to get in touch to book a place. Thank you.

The Friends of Danby School (FODS)

FODS is an enthusiastic group of parents who raise valuable funds for the school through a range of events and activities. Our first meeting of the year will be on **Wednesday 16th September at 3.30pm** whilst the children are in fun clubs. Please come along and join us for a chat and a cuppa, new faces are most welcome!

Healthy Eating Policy

You may remember that we consulted with you on our new Healthy Eating Policy last term following changes to Government Statutory Guidance and changes to their Food Standards. Here is our [draft policy](#) which will be going to governors next week. If you have any further comments to make please do let us know by 3.30pm Tuesday 13th September, as once adopted we will be asking parents to support us in implementing it in school with the children. Thank you.

Dinners and Breakfast and After School Clubs - September price increase

As communicated at the end of last term, our meal and club prices have been subject to a slight increase from September.

- Dinners for Junior children - increase from £2.90 to £3.00 (Infant meals continue to be free of charge through a government scheme)
- Breakfast club: from £3.00 to £3.50 a day
- After School Club: remains at £2.50 3.30pm - 4.30pm - to include a drink and snack
From £3.00 to £3.50 4.30pm - 5.30pm - to include a drink and light tea, therefore both hours would be £6.00
- Milk prices are also increasing from 15p to 20p day.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals at present so will not be charged for school dinners whilst the scheme is in place.

Meals, clubs, school trips etc will continue to be charged to your child's Parentpay accounts. These are usually updated on a Friday or Monday. All new parents have been issued with an activation letter that gives instructions on how to set up a Parentpay account for your child. If you have any problems or queries, please get in touch.

Free School Meals Expansion Programme

As previously communicated, from September 2026 the Department for Education extended entitlement to free school meals to include all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit. Although eligibility will be granted to all Universal Credit recipients, it is important to note that families do still need **to apply** to receive the meals. For further information and details of how to apply, [click here](#).

Tax Free Childcare - Reminder

Danby School has registered to enable you to have access to Tax Free Childcare for wraparound care at school. Our wraparound service covers both Breakfast Club and After School Club as they are chargeable. For more information on how this works, please use the link below. It would be helpful if you could let us know if you plan to pay for your childcare this way so we can keep an eye out for payments.

[Tax-Free Childcare](#)

Summer Reading Challenge - Mobile Library

Before we broke up for the summer holidays, the junior children were invited to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge as part of their visits to the Mobile Library. Congratulations and well done to everyone who completed the challenge! They have been presented with a certificate and a medal in school.

School Dinner Menu

Please [see here](#) for a copy of the Autumn Term (up to start of Feb) school dinner menu for your information.

Future Diary Dates

Please [click here](#) for term dates for this academic year. Specific dates for school activities will be kept updated on the table below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff.

Swimming	September 17th October 1st, 15th November 5th, 19th December 3rd, 17th
Forest School Infants	September 24th October 22nd November 26th
Forest School Juniors	September 10th October 8th November 12th
Wednesday Fun Club	3.30pm - 4.30pm September 16th, 23rd, 30th October 7th, 14th, 21st.
FODS Meeting	3.30pm Wednesday 16th September
Harvest Festival at St Hilda's Church, Danby Dale	9.30am Tuesday 6th October
Bag2School collection Click here for a list of acceptable items	9.00am Thursday 8th October
Stay and Play sessions	Monday 12th October 2.15pm - 3.15pm Tuesday 10th November 10.30am - 11.30am
Staff Training Day - school closed	Friday 23rd October
Half term	Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October
School reopens	Monday 2nd November
Parents evenings	3.40pm - 6.30pm Monday 2nd November 3.40pm - 5.30pm Wednesday 4th November
Children in Need Day	Friday 13th November
School Photos (Individual and Siblings)	Tuesday 1st December
Christmas performance dress rehearsal - further details to follow	Tuesday 8th December
Christmas performance	Thursday 10th December 2.00pm and 6.30pm
Christmas Theatre Trip to Stephen Joseph Theatre - whole school	Friday 11th December
Last day of term	Friday 18th December

Next week I will be in Danby on Wednesday and Friday and Egton on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Have a lovely weekend!

Best Wishes,



Liz Orland
Headteacher

The information below has not changed but is still relevant.

Safeguarding Children Telephone Number

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child, please note that from the 1st April 2023, the main customer service line for the new North Yorkshire Council will be changing. The new number will be **0300 131 2 131** and will replace the old 01609 780780 number. This will mean that all contacts for referrals for children within North Yorkshire need to go through the 0300 131 2 131 number. **This includes any contacts out of hours for the Emergency Duty Team.**

The contact number for the professionals line will remain the same 01609 535070.

The updated details regarding making a referral for a child in North Yorkshire have been updated on our website (www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/about-us/worried-about-a-child).

Adverse weather conditions

Just a reminder that this week we sent out a reminder of our school policy in the event of adverse weather conditions. We are also asking that everyone completes a 'Safe place' form so that we have an alternative place logged for your child to go to should the school need to close during the school day. Please complete this form and return to the school office as soon as possible.

[Link to safe alternative place for your child](#)

[Link to the school policy in the event of adverse weather conditions](#)

Information from NHS - Emotional Health and Wellbeing

We have been asked to share the following link with you from the North Yorkshire Children and Families Service:

[Emotional health and wellbeing for parents](#)

Mobile Phones, Smart Watches and Devices

Mobile phone and smart watch technology has advanced significantly over the last few years and continues to evolve. Many phones and smart watches now offer internet and e-mail access, alongside standard functions of messaging, tracking, camera, video and sound recording. We are also seeing an increase in Smartwatch 'look-alikes' which have games and activities on which are proving a distraction to learning and are time consuming for teaching staff to monitor.

Smartwatches and Smart-Watch lookalikes are therefore **not permitted** to be worn to school in line with the recent change in Government guidelines.

However, in line with our passion for helping children to tell the time, a standard analogue or digital wrist watch may be worn. If you are unsure whether your child's watch is appropriate, you are welcome to check in with a member of staff.

Smart Watches and devices that are brought to school for any reason will be kept safely until the end of the school day.

For a reminder of our school uniform please see our website page [here](#)

My Happy Mind

Just a reminder that you are able to access the [Parent App](#).

The children's engagement in our My Happy Mind project has been a huge success in school so far. Accessing the Parent App would help to reinforce the strategies taught in school at home and strengthen the positive habits that we are trying to encourage in our children.

 **Your unique authentication code is: 121486 for Danby CofE VA School**

Fostering North Yorkshire - recruitment campaign

Fostering North Yorkshire is proud to be part of a national campaign to recruit more foster carers, marked by the release of 'The Run', a powerful short film about Tom, an 11-year-old boy whose life begins to change with the care of a foster family.

Right now, we urgently need more foster carers across North Yorkshire, and we hope this film will be the spark that encourages someone to take that first step. Watch the short film and learn how you can make a difference.

Contact: Email fostering@northyorks.gov.uk

Follow us on Facebook

Tel: 01609 534 654

Growing Healthy Information from HDFT

Please find information about an app designed both for professionals and families, by Harrogate District Foundation Trust [HDFT] who deliver the Healthy Child programme. This covers the whole county and has a map of services/groups etc for families to access in their area, including contact details and opening hours etc, as well as child development info for parents, referral forms for wellbeing advice for older CYP etc

[Download Our App | HDFT Children's Health Service](#)

Attendance

Just a little reminder that if your child is ill and will be absent from school, we ask that you contact school to let us know on each day that they will be absent, by 9.30am. This can be by telephone on **01287 660345** or by email to admin@danby.n-yorks.sch.uk . If we do not hear anything from you we will give you a call to check everything is okay as part of our safeguarding procedures. Thank you

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<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

Easy fundraising

We are registered with easyfundraising.org.uk which gives the Friends of Danby School donations if you shop online and sign up to support Danby Primary School. You can also use easyfundraising when booking your holidays and raise big donations for us FOR FREE! Plus book with TUI in January for a chance to win back the value of your holiday!

Please visit our easyfundraising page at:

[Danby School Easyfundraising](#) and click 'join us'. Thank you.

Jewellery in School

Please could we remind everyone of the policy regarding jewellery in school.

'Jewellery is not allowed to be worn for Health and Safety reasons following a directive from North Yorkshire Council. However a watch and small stud earrings may be worn on a daily basis but must be removed for PE.'

If you wish your child to have their ears pierced, we recommend that you have this done over the Summer holiday period to allow them to heal before a return to school. **All earrings must now be removed for PE and Swimming lessons, we are not allowed to tape over them as in previous times.**

Updated Guidance from the DfE regarding unauthorised leave of absence

Please be advised that there have been some legal changes to the guidance that schools must follow with regards to unauthorised leave of absences during term time. The penalty amounts have been increased and also the introduction of possible legal intervention. Please see below the information from the DfE.

For unauthorised Leave of absence taken within a three-year rolling period, Penalty Notices will be issued as follows:

- *The first Penalty Notice issued to a parent in respect of a particular child will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days, this will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.*
- *A second Penalty Notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same child will be charged a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days.*

PLEASE NOTE:

- ***A third Penalty Notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first Penalty Notice.***
- ***In a case where the national threshold is met for the third time (or subsequent times) alternative action will be taken. This will include considering prosecution but may include other tools such as one of the other Legal Interventions to address poor attendance.***

As always, any leave of absence other than illness, must be requested in advance by completing a form to the headteacher. These forms are available from the school office.

Gas Safe Charity Funding

We have been asked to share the following information with you:

Choices4Energy at the North Yorkshire Council has funding available until September to help homeowners with low income and/or disability to pay for measures that address potential gas safety, gas leaks or CO poisoning (<£36,000 household income, other criteria may apply). This includes measures such as repairs and servicing of gas boilers, fires and cookers. Badly fitted or poorly serviced gas appliances can put you and your family at risk. There is a maximum grant of £500 per household, and we are encouraging homeowners to check gas appliances now to ensure they are safe to use, ready for winter. Contact us now on 0300 131 2 131 and ask for Choices4Energy, or visit [Choices4Energy | North Yorkshire Council](#) for more information.

See attached copy of our [Gas Safety leaflet](#) which provides info about the funding available.