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Headteacher: Mrs E Orland

Newsletter Friday 19th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,



What a wonderful term we've had at Danby School. The lead up to Christmas is always a lovely time to be in school. This week we have been treated to a dress rehearsal at Egton School, a delicious Christmas dinner cooked by our very own school cook, Natascha, a fabulous music assembly by Mrs Lillie's musical children, a school Christmas party and even a surprise visit from Santa! The annual Christmas hat competition at our Christmas dinner was won by Evelyn (Infants), Chloe (Y3 4) and Tom (Y5 6). Well done everyone!

The Carol Service at St Hilda's Church, Danby was magical on Thursday evening and what a delight the children were. The Nativity that the infants performed was lovely and the juniors did some super readings. Well done to everyone involved in the preparation and rehearsing of the service, thank you to all who came along to watch the children and thank you to Rev. Sally for the service.

Thank you also to FODS for all their efforts with an amazing Christmas Raffle and for providing such delicious refreshments after the service. We will let you know how much the raffle raised when the total has been finalised.

All that is left for me to say is a huge thank you to our wonderful staff team, who work so hard to give our children the best experiences and school-time memories! I would also like to thank you all for your continued support of both school and FODs, it's great to work with you all. We are so proud of our Danby School family and all we achieve as a small school!

Children return to school on **Tuesday 6th January**. Staff will be in school on Monday 5th for staff training if you need to contact us for any reason.

Future Diary Dates

Please [click here](#) for the holiday 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.

Christmas Holidays	Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January
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Teacher Training Day	Monday 5th January 2026
Children return to school	Tuesday 6th January 2026

On behalf of the children, staff and governors, we wish you a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year and we all look forward to seeing you in 2026!

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](#)

Smart Watches, Apple AirTag and other such devices - information

We have been asked by North Yorkshire Council to let parents/carers know that children are not permitted to wear or have in pockets/bags etc, Smart Watches, Apple AirTag and such devices under any circumstances either in school or on school trips. This is inline with safeguarding policy. Thank you for your understanding.

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

DfE Guidance on reducing the spread of illnesses this winter

The DfE have asked that the following link is shared with parents as new guidance has been issued: Please see the NHS Guidance ['Is my child too ill for school?'](#) Pupils shouldn't miss school on a precautionary basis and can normally attend with a mild cough or cold, unless they have a fever or diarrhoea or vomiting.

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](#)

Free Inclusion courses for parents

We have been asked to share with you the following link to courses designed to support parents and carers of children with Autism, SEMH, and ADHD. Link [HERE](#).

- These courses are an opportunity to find out more and gain practical tools and strategies to help support your child or young person.
- Parents will also meet others facing similar experiences or with a shared interest in the topic.
- For multi-day courses parents must attend all days and will receive a copy of the content covered following the course.

Spaces fill-up fast so please share with your parents and carer networks and encourage early booking to avoid missing out!

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

Tax Free Childcare

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 sunshine club sessions as they are chargeable. Please on the link below for more information on how it works.

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

Free School Meal Eligibility

We are sharing this information with you again as it has recently been updated. Please contact the school office if you would like any help.

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible for free school meals if you're in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, before benefits are taken into account.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and currently receives universal free school meals, please check your entitlement. Being eligible will mean that the school receives additional funding for your child which will go towards their learning and any additional support they may need.

If you think you may be entitled to free school meals for your child, please use the application form which can be found on the NYC website -[Free school meals | North Yorkshire Council](#).

My NameTags - FODS fundraiser

We have signed up to a company called 'My Name Tags' who produce personalised name stickers/iron on stickers to label clothing, shoes etc. It's very easy to use and saves a lot of time writing names in everything! All you have to do is click on the link below to enter the website, create the stickers and then put the unique school ID in the box under the 'Shipping Details' during checkout. For every order placed, we will receive 24% commission for the FODS account. If you have any questions, please speak to Sarah in the school office.

<https://www.mynametags.com/>

School ID is 22782.

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.

Messages from Whitby Music Centre

We already offer ensembles for string, brass and woodwind players on Saturday mornings, these include ensembles for beginners and are open to players of all ages. If you know of instrumentalists who do not

yet come along to Whitby Music Centre please mention us to them. All Music Centre rehearsals take place at the lower school site of Whitby School on Airy Hill.

WAVE: Welcoming All Valuing Everyone

The churches of Middle Esk Moor Benefice would like to invite you to a new initiative called WAVE: Welcoming All Valuing Everyone. The first event will be WAVE: Breakfast with God. This will take place on every Terrific Third Saturday of the month, in the morning with breakfast for everyone - waffles, toast, cereal, fruit juice, yoghurts, tea and proper coffee! This will be followed by an interactive Bible story with props, songs, craft activities and prayers. Fun for all the family (even little babies), a relaxed way to spend a few hours and a good time for adults to catch up over breakfast too. We'd love to see you there and make you very welcome. And if you can't join us at Glaisdale, you're more than welcome to come to Hawsker instead. There's no need to book – just turn up! It's free of charge but donations are welcome - but only if you want to and are able to. Looking forward to meeting you and welcoming you - Revd Anthony Bennett and Revd Sam Mawer!

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.

'Pharmacy First' availability for minor illness / ailments in children

Parents and carers in Humber and North Yorkshire are being reminded to use their local community pharmacy this summer, if their child needs help with minor illnesses or ailments.

The NHS 'Pharmacy First' service allows children to access treatment for five common conditions from their local pharmacy, without needing a GP appointment.

Children can receive NHS treatment, including antibiotics where appropriate, for five common conditions including:

- impetigo (aged one year and over)
- infected insect bites (aged one year and over)
- earache (aged one to 17 years)
- sore throat (aged five years and over)
- sinusitis (aged 12 years and over).
- The aim of Pharmacy First is to make it easier for people to get the help they need and free up millions of GP slots.

Parents can simply walk into a participating pharmacy and request a consultation for their child. If further treatment is needed, pharmacy teams will signpost families to the most appropriate local health service.

Hayley Patterson, NHS Humber and North Yorkshire ICB's Pharmacy Lead, said: "As the school holidays approach, we are encouraging parents and carers to think 'Pharmacy First' if their child is unwell, allowing them to be seen quickly and conveniently at their local pharmacy.

“The scheme enables community pharmacists, who are trained health professionals, to supply prescription-only medicines, where clinically appropriate, to treat five health conditions for children which would previously have required a GP appointment.”

The Pharmacy First scheme is also available for adults and covers the following seven common conditions:

- sinusitis (adults and children aged 12 years and over)
- sore throat (adults and children aged five years and over)
- earache (children and young adults aged one to 17 years)
- infected insect bite (adults and children aged one year and over)
- impetigo (adults and children aged one year and over)
- shingles (adults aged 18 years and over)
- uncomplicated urinary tract infection (women aged 16 to 64 years).

To find a local pharmacy to you visit the [NHS website](#)

There's further information about what pharmacies can do at [Let's Get Better](#)