



Danby Church of England School
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Headteacher: Mrs E Orland

Newsletter Friday 25th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Harvest Festival - Tuesday 6th October

Our annual Harvest Festival service will be held on Tuesday 6th October at 9.00am at St Hilda's Church, Danby Dale YO21 2NH (*what3words:///baguette.stored.tourist*). Please could children be taken directly to the church in the morning for 9.00am instead of to school unless they are attending breakfast club. If any of our new parents are unsure where the church is, please ask a member of staff. Parents are welcome to the service and for coffee afterwards and if you are able to stay, we would be grateful if you could bring your child back to school after the service. Any children who do not have parents or family there will be brought back to school by staff. We will be collecting for the Whitby Food Bank for our Harvest Gifts this year. Please follow [this link](#) to see appropriate items being collected currently. Items may be brought in any time between now and our service. Thank you.

Year 5 6 Girls Football

On Tuesday afternoon, the Year 5 6 girls went to Eskdale 3G Pitch in Whitby to take part in a football tournament. They all put in a lot of effort and showed excellent sportsmanship and teamwork throughout their games, well done everyone!

Swimming

The whole school will be swimming at Whitby Leisure Centre next Thursday afternoon, please can everyone remember their kits that day. Thank you.

Census Day Lunch 'Best of British' - Thursday 1st October

On Thursday, our school cook will be serving a special 'Best of British' lunch of Chicken Pie, Mashed Potato and Vegetables followed by Autumn Crumble Cake and Custard. If your child would like to have dinner that day, they may order it in the usual way in the morning. Thank you.

The Friends of Danby School (FODS)

A reminder of the following FODS events:

Half Term Tuck Shop - Thursday 22nd October from 3.15pm

Annual General Meeting followed by Pudding night! - Thursday 12th November 7pm at school

Come along for a swift AGM followed by an evening of pudding and wine and general merriment! This is a great opportunity to get to know other parents and introduce yourself if you are new to the school.

Danby Christmas Fair - Saturday 14th November and Sunday 15th November 10am -3pm

Volunteers needed to run the Danby School FODs tombola stall for an hour or two each day.

Children's Movie Night - Thursday 26th November 3.30-5.30pm More details nearer the time

This year we will also be sorting your Christmas Presents and Cards for you! Personalised Christmas cards with your child's design will be available to order in due course and new for this year a Danby School Calendar featuring a piece of art work from each child will be available to order! Great gift idea for family members!

If you would like to be added to the Danby School FODs Parent Messenger Chat group please contact the FODs email on: FODS@danby.n-yorks.sch.uk

North Yorkshire Council's Home to School Travel Policy.

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

Have your say on proposed changes to North Yorkshire Council's Home to School Travel Policy.

Following a Post Implementation Review of the updated Home to School Travel policy introduced in 2024, North Yorkshire Council is inviting views on a number of recommended changes. The consultation is open now and runs until 4 November 2026.

The review found that the policy is largely working as intended, helping to create a fairer and more consistent approach to transport eligibility while remaining in line with national guidance and on track to deliver planned savings. It also identified areas where improvements could be made.

Executive member for education, learning and skills, Cllr Annabel Wilkinson, said: "We know that school travel arrangements are incredibly important to families and that the changes introduced in 2024 have affected some households more than others.

"When the policy changed, we promised to review how it was working in practice and to listen to the experiences of families.

"We have carefully considered feedback from parents and carers, schools and other stakeholders, alongside appeals, complaints and operational data.

"We would encourage people to take part as this is your opportunity to have your say and help us to shape the future of our home to school travel policy in North Yorkshire."

If any recommendations are approved, they would not take effect before September 2027 and will apply to children starting in Reception and Year 7 in September 2028. Families should continue to make school preference decisions based on the existing arrangements while this process is completed.

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Eligibility for free travel would continue to be based on a child's nearest suitable school with available places. The review does not propose a return to catchment-based transport eligibility.

Find out more about the review and take part in the consultation at www.northyorks.gov.uk/PIRsurvey

Healthy Eating Policy

Following our parent consultation and our Governors meeting last week our revised Healthy Eating Policy is now in place in line with the [statutory government requirements](#). You can find this in full [HERE](#):

What does this mean for you as a parent in brief?

Acceptable Breaktime Snacks -fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, cheese, unsalted crackers, rice cakes, breadsticks, plain or low sugar biscuits, plain water only to drink

Unacceptable - crisps, sweets, chocolate, cake, pastries, cereal bars, sugary drinks, energy drinks etc

Packed Lunches - a sandwich, wrap, pasta or rice food, a source of protein, cheese, tuna, chicken, egg, hummus etc, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, yogurt, a healthy low/no sugar dessert, water only to drink

We are aware that many of you may already have stocked up on snack items and lunch items that are now not encouraged in schools and so we will phase this policy in over the next two weeks. The policy will be expected to be adhered to in line with government schools policy by Monday 5th October.

Celebrations and Events - The good news is that treats for birthdays, events and special occasions are exempt from the school food standards!

Bag2School Collection

We will be having a Bag2School collection on Thursday 8th October at Danby and Egton Schools. If you are planning on having a good clear out before Christmas, this is the perfect opportunity whilst also raising money for the Friends of Danby School. Bag2School is a **free eco-friendly fundraising scheme** that helps schools, businesses, community groups, local councils, and charities **raise funds through textile recycling** as well as spreading textile recycling awareness. [Please click here for a list of acceptable items.](#)



Please can all bags be brought onto the school playground by 9.00am on the morning of 8th October. If you do not have enough Bag2School bags, bin bags are fine to use. Please can bags be tied at the top so that items inside do not get dirty or wet, thank you. Please do not bring items in suitcases, bags for life or boxes as these cannot be accepted for collection, thank you.

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.

Oktoberfest Fun Run

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

We have fixed the date for the OCTOBERFEST Fun Run this year as SUNDAY, Oct. 11th. Races begin at 2.00 at Whitby School as usual (Airy Hill site). There are races for Years 5 & 6 , Boys and Girls separately, also Years 3 & 4 too and an Open Race, following the usual pattern. Every runner will receive a medal and the first 2 finishers in each race will get a shield. Entries cost £3 each (to cover the cost of medals) and all are welcome.

This is always a really fun event and last year we had a record number of runners and there were lots of smiling faces. Not only did the children enjoy the run and their medal but last year over £1000 was raised for a charity called the Rainbow Dreams Trust. This year we would like to give runners the opportunity to raise money in support of the charity, Operation Smile, which helps children with cleft palate problems. At a relatively small cost and thanks to a simple operation, children suffering from this problem can be completely cured. We would like to do our bit to support the efforts of this charity.

[Please click here for an entry form](#) (copies are also available from the Danby School office), and [here for a sponsorship form.](#)

We look forward to another great Octoberfest!

Parent Carer support group, 'Carers Plus' have asked us to share the following information with you:

*The sessions cover a range of topics that we know can be important to parent carers, including **health and wellbeing, money and benefits, SEND/EHCPs and education, autism, ADHD and PDA, mental health and burnout, relationships and sexuality, future planning, and grief and loss.***

Our first session is on Tuesday 22 September 10-12noon: Welcome & Connect

*We would particularly encourage parent carers to come along to the first session. As it's a great opportunity to **find out all about the programme, hear what's coming up, understand how they can get involved and meet other parent carers.***

*Parent carers can attend **one session or as many as they would like, but all sessions must be booked in advance, as places are limited.***

 **Kirkham Close Community Centre, Whitby, YO21 1JR**

 **10am–12noon**

*To book, parent carers can contact us via: **T: 01723 850155 E: admin@carersplus.net W: www.carersplus.net/events***

Details on all sessions due to take place are attached to this email.

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](#)

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	October 1st, 15th November 5th, 19th December 3rd, 17th
Forest School Infants	October 22nd November 26th

Forest School Juniors	September 10th October 8th November 12th
Wednesday Fun Club	3.30pm - 4.30pm September 23rd, 30th October 7th, 14th, 21st.
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 Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and Egton on Monday 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

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>

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.