



Danby Church of England School
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Whitby
North Yorkshire
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Headteacher: Mrs E Orland

Newsletter Friday 9th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Personalised Christmas Cards

As previously mentioned, FODS have arranged for personalised Christmas cards to be available to order from Cauliflower Cards. Today, your child will be bringing home a copy of their own special artwork that they have created for you to order personalised Christmas cards. Please follow the instructions on the order form to order online and then return the whole sheet back into school by **Wednesday 14th October**. When ordering, please make sure that you quote the 'Parents order code' which has a unique code for your child's artwork. If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Parents evening after half term

Parents evenings have been arranged for the first week back after half term, Monday 2nd November 3.40pm - 6.30pm and Wednesday 4th November 3.40pm - 5.40pm. We would like to have bookings organised before half term so please complete the booking form [here](#) to request an appointment. Appointments will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and will be confirmed by email. Please could you complete the form by Friday 16th October so that we can confirm times. Thank you.

Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone who came to our Harvest Festival Service at St Hilda's Church, Danby on Tuesday morning. As always, it was a lovely service and the children did some beautiful singing and readings for us. Thank you also for the wonderful selection of donated foods for Whitby Food Bank, they are always very grateful for the help. Your continued support at our school events is greatly appreciated and we hope you enjoyed the children's home-made apple cake!

KS2 Cross Country

On Tuesday afternoon, the junior children went to Whitby School to take part in a KS2 Cross Country event. This event is always well attended and this one was no exception - there were 474 runners there! All of our children showed great determination and put in a lot of effort and we had some excellent scores. Well done everyone!

Year 5 6 STEM event at Scarborough Spa

On Thursday afternoon, children in Years 5 and 6 went to Scarborough Spa for a STEM event as part of STEM week. The event is planned to promote essential skills for the future workforce in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths and aims to 'bring STEM to life' for young minds. There were around 40 local, regional, and national employers as well as training and education organisations exhibiting at the Spa. It was a very interesting and informative event and the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Stay and Play Sessions

It is the first of our stay and play sessions next Monday afternoon 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. If you know of anyone who would like to come along to these sessions that hasn't already booked, please ask them to get in touch. Thank you.

The second session will take place on Tuesday 10th November 10.30am - 11.30am.

Swimming

The whole school will be swimming on Thursday afternoon so please can everyone remember to bring their kits into school that day. Thank you.

Bag2School Collection

Thank you to everyone who donated a bag to our Bag2School collection. We had a great pile of bags! The school receives money for each bag donated which goes to the Friends of Danby School account.

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

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

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

Information from Early Help for Parents

Please find below the togetherness program for parenting. When you open the home page there is now an option to access the courses via what's app.

[Understanding your child: from toddler to teenager - Togetherness](#)

Whitby Music Centre

From 7 November, Whitby Music Centre's specialist staff are offering 8 children free beginner violin lessons for one year. The lessons will begin on Saturday 7 November from 9.15am until 9.45am and continue until next July on term time Saturdays at Whitby School, Airy Hill Site (Lower School).

Further information is posted on our website –<https://www.whitbymusiccentre.co.uk/> – and parents who want more information or to book lessons can contact Richard Wood by email at richard.wood@northyorks.gov.uk

Please click [here](#) for an information leaflet and [here](#) for a general flyer about Whitby Music Centre for any child in your school who already plays a musical instrument.

Safeguarding Alert

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

To be aware of the social media game URBAN X - young people daring each other to compete in a game daring each other to take part in significant risks and taking photographs to prove they have completed the risk share with the group. Concerns have also been raised by professionals in regard to a social media group called URBAN X in which children are part of and compete in a game daring each other to take part in significant risks and taking photographs to prove they have completed the risk and share with the group such as run in front of traffic or make their way to train tracks.

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 15th November 5th, 19th December 3rd, 17th
Forest School Infants	October 22nd November 26th
Forest School Juniors	November 12th
Wednesday Fun Club	3.30pm - 4.30pm October 14th, 21st.
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 Monday, Wednesday afternoon and Friday and Egton on Tuesday, Wednesday morning (Harvest Festival) and Thursday afternoon. Thursday morning I am at a Diocesan Headteachers Meeting.

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](https://www.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.