



Dinnington First Newsletter

No 6 January 2024-2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a very busy and exciting start to 2025 here at Dinnington!

The children have been working very hard and we have seen some huge strides in the children's progress – particularly in their writing. We have again been listed by the Local Authority in the **top ten schools in Newcastle** for our outcomes in all areas including Early Years, Phonics, Key Stage 1, and Year 4 Times Tables – something for our school community to be immensely proud of.

We have recently had our annual review into **safeguarding** and **well-being** where an external advisor spent a day in school and spoke with children, governors, staff and parents – this was all extremely positive in terms of what we do to ensure the children are safe and happy - we will share the report with you when it arrives.

The next review we are organising is to look at our provision for children with **Special Educational Needs** or those in need of Social and Emotional Support. We will be holding a SEND parent forum to explain what we currently provide in school and to gain your views – please join us if you can on Tuesday 18th February at 5pm.

Kind regards Mrs Ash



Upcoming Events

(Full Year Diary at the End of the Newsletter)

February

5th – Family Club (3.30pm)

6th – School Nurse

11th – Safer Internet Day – Class workshops

11th – Online Safety Parent Zoom (5.30pm)

12th – Y2 Laing Art Gallery

12th – Family Club (3.30pm)

19th – Family Club (3.30pm)

20th – Year 4 Centre For Life trip

21st – **Training Day** – school closed to pupils

24th – 28th Half Term Holiday

March

3rd – Return to school

5th – Year 1 Beamish Trip

6th World Book Day- Wear your Pajamas!

6th Community Coffee Morning & Choir 9am

7th – 14th STEM Week

10th, 11th, 12th **Parent Consultations**

14th Comic Relief / Dinnington's Got Talent Final

21st Gosforth Voices visit to school for children

Website

Our new website is under construction and we hope to have it up and running by Easter. Please accept our apologies in the meantime as we make this transition. It will be worth the wait!

Social Media

We have a new facebook page where will post all our social media content – this will also link to our new Instagram page. As a Trust we have made the decision to remove our content from Twitter and this will close down after half term. As these are public formats we will need new forms from all parents to grant permission before we post pictures including children. This will be sent to you shortly.

[DFS Facebook Page](#)

[DFS Instagram](#)





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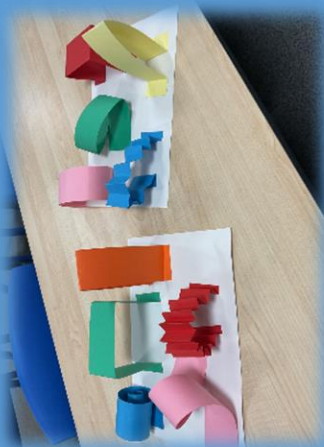


Nursery

In the first week back after Christmas we talked about the season of Winter. We wrapped up warm and went on a Winter walk. We found snow, ice and very wet, muddy puddles which were lots of fun. We drank hot chocolate when we got back indoors to warm us up. We did a variety of activities based on this season. We have also been learning how to use the apparatus – we are climbing, balancing, jumping, swinging and building our confidence in so many ways. We absolutely love the apparatus!

Reception

reception have loved their Wild World topic learning about rainforests and the Polar Regions. We had a fantastic trip to an indoor rainforest at Sunderland Winter Gardens. This week we made a stir fry and Chinese lanterns and did a dragon dance to celebrate Chinese New Year. The children are making great progress with their writing and enjoying using subtraction and addition and part-whole models in Maths.



Year 1

What a busy few weeks Year 1 have had since coming back to school! We have been working hard on our sculpture work in Art by folding and rolling paper and made some beautiful flowers! We also become Geography detectives looking for landmarks and their features. We had to find geographical clues to work out which landmark we were looking at!



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Year 2

We have been very busy in Year 2 since returning after Christmas. We loved our trip to Newcastle City Gymnastics Academy, where we were able to practice the gymnastics skills we have been learning in PE. We have also been working with money in maths, where we were shopkeepers and shoppers, exchanging and buying items. In woodland learning we have been looking at animals in winter and created our own birdfeeders.

Year 3

Year 3 have had an exciting and enjoyable time learning about many wonderful topics this term. Ted Hughes' classic The Iron Man has been our inspiration in English. We have also had a fantastic trip to Woodhorn Museum, where we learnt all about mining in the North East.



Year 4

Year 4 have had an electrifying start to the year in Science, exploring electricity by building circuits and experimenting with switches. They tested different materials to discover which ones are good conductors of electricity - developing their investigative skills and scientific thinking along the way.

A highlight of the month was our trip to Beamish, which brought our History learning on the Victorians to life. The children took part in a traditional Victorian lesson, experiencing first-hand the strict classroom rules, using dip pens and ink to write, and witnessing the discipline of the era. This immersive experience gave them a real insight into what life was like for children in the past, deepening their understanding of Victorian society.



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Gosforth Trust Archery Visit

Dinnington hosted a visit from all the other schools in the Gosforth Trust to teach them archery skills.

This was also a great opportunity for our children to make new friends and we are proud of how kind and welcoming they were!



Sporting Visitor

Last year the children enjoyed a visit from Sports coach and GB gymnast Joey Fishburn. He gave an assembly about his journey to becoming a GB gymnast and the importance of hard work and resilience.

Joey is currently appearing the new series of Gladiators on BBC 1 and will return to talk to the children when the series has finished about his experience.





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Tuesday 11th February is Safer Internet Day

Keeping children safe online is a huge concern for parents, families and schools.

At Dinnington First School the children will receive lessons from our safeguarding team with reminders of how to keep themselves safe.

At 5.30pm 11th February there will be a zoom meeting for parents with advice on how to keep your child safe online. The link will be sent out via parent mail.

Below is also a link to conversation starters that you may find useful when discussing this with your children.

Conversation Starters
for Parents and Carers



[Internet Safety Conversation Starters for Parents and Carers](#)



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IMPORTANT DATES 2025

March

Wed 5th - Year 1 Beamish

Thu 6th – World Book Day – come in your PJs and bring a book

Thu 6th – Community Coffee Morning & Choir Performance 9am – 10am

Mon 10th, Tues 11th, Wed 12th – Parent Consultations

Mon 10th – STEM week activities in school

Mon 10th – Thurs 13th Dinnington's Got Talent Heats

Fri 14th – Dinnington's Got Talent Final & Comic Relief Non-Uniform

Fri 21st Gymnastics Competition (details TBC)

April

Tues 1st – Dance Festival Whitley Bay (details TBC)

Tuesday 8th – Reception visit to Hall Hill Farm

Wed 9th – Nursery and Reception Easter Service at St Matthew's 2pm

Fri 11th – Rock Steady Performance 2.30pm

Mon 14th – Fri 24th – School Holiday

Mon 28th – Return to school

May

Mon 5th – Bank Holiday

Wed 7th – Year 3 Laing Art Gallery

Mon 12th – Theatre Visit in school - The Railway Children Year 3 and Year 4

Mon 26th – Fri 30th – Half term holiday

June

Mon 2nd – Training Day

Thurs 5th – Reception Zoolab visit

Fri 20th – Sunday 22nd – Year 4 Robinwood Residential

Mon 30th – Early Years Sports Day (am) Year 1 and Year 2 Sports Day (pm)



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IMPORTANT DATES 2025



July 2025

Tues 1st – KS2 Sports Day (am)

Wed 2nd – Dinnington Transition Day to new class teacher

Y4 Transition Day to GEMS (other middle schools to be confirmed)

Thur 3rd – Dinnington Transition Day to new class teacher

Y4 Transition Day to GEMS (other middle schools to be confirmed)

Fri 4th - Y4 Transition Day to GEMS & other middle schools to be confirmed

Mon 7th – Choir performing at Ouseburn all day

Wed 9th – School Summer Fair (pm)

Mon 14th – Year 4 Leavers' Assembly 9am

Wed 16th – EYFS Celebration Assembly 9.30am

Thus 17th – Year 4 Cinema Trip