



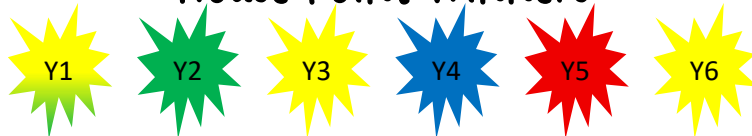
Newsletter 24th April



★ Stars of the Week ★

Year 1	Raymond
Year 2	Yzabelle
Year 3	Marvin
Year 4	Ivy
Year 5	Ekjit
Year 6	Noah

House Point Winners



Message from the Headteacher

As we come to the end of a very busy first week back, I wanted to say how much I have loved my first week as Headteacher of Dame Dorothy Primary School.

Spending time getting to know the children and staff has been a real highlight for me – whether that's visiting lessons, chatting in the lunch hall or watching the children play and laugh on the yard. I have also really appreciated the many parents and carers who have stopped to introduce themselves and say hello; thank you so much for such a warm welcome. Please do continue to say hello if I haven't yet had the chance to meet you – I look forward to getting to know you over the coming weeks.

It has been wonderful to see learning in action across school. From Year 6 confidently grappling with tricky percentages, to our Key Stage 1 children trying their very best with handwriting and phonics, learning is clearly something our children are proud of. In Early Years, the children have been observing the signs of spring and painting some beautiful cherry blossom.

This term marks an exciting and important time for our children as they continue to learn and grow. We have so much to look forward to, including trips, the Sunderland 3K, Sports Day, beach visits, the end of primary assembly and visits to new classes.

These experiences are such an important part of school life and play a key role in helping our children flourish – not only academically, but socially and emotionally too.

We are also looking forward to welcoming the next generation of Dame Dotters! Letters were sent out by the Local Authority last week allocating places, and we are very excited to meet our new children and families over this term and help them feel confident, happy and that they truly belong as part of our school community. This first week has shown me that Dame Dorothy is a very special place. Being part of this community means belonging – it means we look out for one another, we are on the same team, and we support and encourage each other to be the best we can be. By working together as a community, we create the conditions where every child can learn well, feel valued and truly flourish.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support and partnership – it really does make a difference.

I wish everyone a fantastic and restful weekend.

SAFEGUARDING

We know how much our children love chatting with their friends both in school and outside of school.

Some of our older children choose to use their phones to talk to their friends. Whilst What's App has an age limit of 13, we are aware some of our children use this to communicate with friends and family.

Below is a guide to support parents of any children using this app.

At The National College, our #WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- GROUP CHAT PRESSURES**
Group chats involve multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.
- SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS**
Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.
- DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES**
WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.
- EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS**
'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block the feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter explicit or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.
- UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING**
WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.
- COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT**
WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**
Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Calls' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.
- TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS**
Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.
- BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS**
Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something feels more than uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.
- TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI**
Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sending behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

@wake_up_weds /www.thenationalcollege @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.02.2025

SCHOOL MEALS

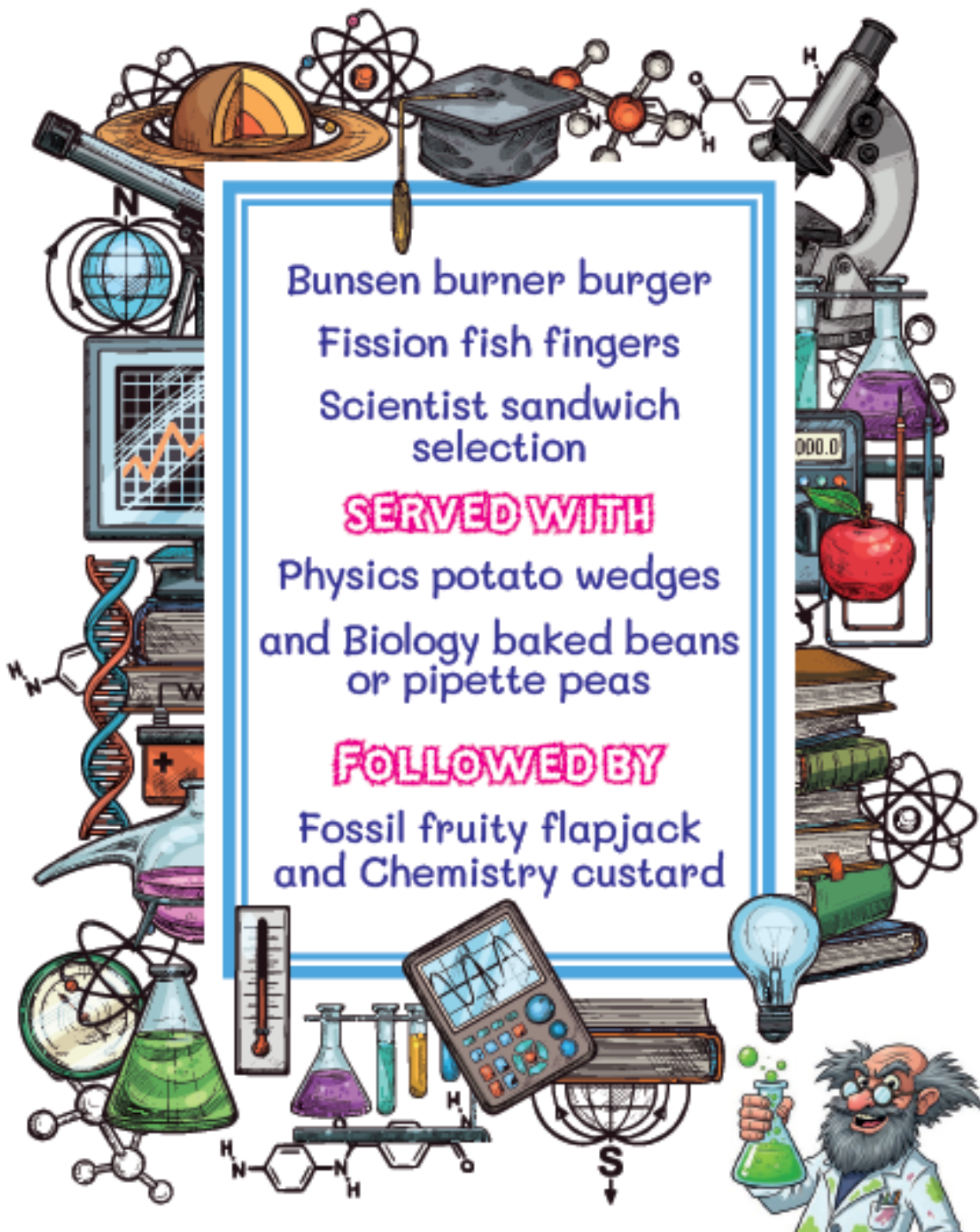
The school meals service is holding a Mad Science theme day on Friday 1st May .

We would encourage all children to have a school meal on the day.

If your child does not normally have school dinners then please let the school office know in advance if they want to be part of the promotional day so that the kitchen can plan to feed them .

MAD SCIENCE DAY

FRIDAY 1ST MAY



Bunsen burner burger
Fission fish fingers
Scientist sandwich
selection

SERVED WITH

Physics potato wedges
and Biology baked beans
or pipette peas

FOLLOWED BY

Fossil fruity flapjack
and Chemistry custard

NEW AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – STARTING THIS WEEK

We're excited to announce a fantastic range of new after school clubs, launching this week! There's something for everyone, with fun, engaging activities designed to inspire, energise, and spark curiosity.

Choose from:

- Science Club – Get hands-on with exciting experiments and fun science activities each week. Perfect for curious minds!
- Football / Multi-Sports Club – Action-packed sessions filled with energetic ball games, played outdoors (weather permitting) and lots of teamwork.
- Baking Club – Create delicious treats and learn new recipes while building practical kitchen skills.
- Animal Club – A unique, hands-on experience interacting with animals such as rabbits, geckos, skinny pigs and more, learning about care and responsibility.
- Nerf Club – High-energy, fun-based Nerf games focusing on teamwork, strategy, and lots of smiles.

All clubs run until 5:00pm.

How to Book: Bookings are now open via the Arbor app.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, so don't miss out!

We look forward to welcoming children to our new clubs. Please get in touch if you have any questions.



BREAKFAST CLUB REMINDER

Children must arrive at school before 8:30am to access Breakfast Club.

If children arrive after 8:30am, they will not be able to enter school until the main gate opens at 8:45am.

DINKY DOTS RETURNS

We will be back on Thursday 30th April at 1:00pm.
The gate will close promptly at 1:10pm.

We can't wait to see all your lovely faces again for lots of fun, creativity, and play!

Please spread the word and invite new friends along to come and enjoy the fun too!

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is so important for children to get the most from their education and the aim should always be 100%.

This week's attendance winners with **98.6%** are **Reception**

Children with **5** late arrivals will miss out on prizes and awards even if they are at **98%**.

School starts at 8am with our free breakfast club, open to anyone in Reception – Year 6 classes but must enter before 8:30am, classroom doors open from 8:45 - 8:55. Any children arriving after this time should enter via the school office, where a late mark will be given.

DIARY DATES

- 30th April - Dinky Dots Returns
- 4th May - Bank Holiday – **SCHOOL CLOSED**
- 11 - 15th May - Y6 SATS week
- 17th May - Sunderland 3K
- 23rd - 31st May - Half Term
- 18th June - Y3 @Broomhouse Farm
- 24th June - Summer Concert
- 14th July - Sports Day
- 17th July - Y6 Leavers Assembly @2pm