

★ Stars of the Week ★

Year 1	Noyan
Year 2	Isla
Year 3	Cody
Year 4	Ryan
Year 5	Jessica
Year 6	Lara

Head Teacher's Award

★ **Isabella** ★

House Point Winners



Farewell Message

After 17 wonderful years of service here at Dame Dorothy Primary school, the time has come for me to say goodbye as I retire from a place that has been far more than just a school—it has been a community, a family, and my life.

I find it hard to remember a time when I was not part of the furniture here at Dame Dot. I vividly remember my interview and my first day in the job as if they were yesterday. As I approach my final week as headteacher it seems impossible to imagine a life without Dame Dorothy at the centre of it and I will miss this place more than I can ever express in words.

To our children: you have been the heartbeat of every day. Your energy, fun, and kindness are what makes my job so special and gives a purpose to what I have tried to do. Watching so many of you grow into confident, capable, active young people has been the greatest reward of my time here. Hearing about your successes is what makes me most proud. I will miss your jokes, your smiles, your teasing and your hugs.



To our parents and carers: thank you for your support and partnership over the years.

Together, we've built a school community that values care, ambition, and the wellbeing of every child. Our shared belief in giving children the very best start in life has always guided our work. Even when you may disagree with decisions we have taken, I hope you have understood that those decisions are only ever taken in what we believe are the best interests of children and the school. Being a headteacher is a special job but it is also a demanding one that does not get any easier. Support of our families is so important, and I am sure you will give that to Mrs Tullock as she begins the next chapter for the school.

To my colleagues and governors - past and present: you are a fantastic team. It has been an honour to work alongside such dedicated, passionate professionals. Leading the school through three successful Ofsted inspections was only possible because of your commitment, expertise, and belief in what we do. I will always be grateful for your support, the laughter, and the shared determination to keep improving.

One of the things I am most proud of is our commitment to promoting health, movement, and wellbeing through our Always Active uniform. Seeing children embrace activity as a natural and joyful part of their school day has been inspiring, and I know this ethos will continue to benefit them for many years to come. Our legacy extends beyond the school gate to a national profile, with other schools (some 2000+ now) following our example.

As I leave, I carry with me countless memories, deep gratitude, and enormous pride in everything we have achieved together. This school has shaped me just as much as I have helped shape it, and it will forever hold a special place in my heart.

Thank you all - for your kindness, your trust, and the privilege of serving this community. I wish you every success and happiness in the years ahead. The future is bright, and I know the school will continue to flourish.

**With my warmest thanks and very best wishes,
Iain Williamson**



Guard of Honour



Everyone is warmly invited to join us in giving **Mr Williamson** the send-off he truly deserves on his final day at **Dame Dorothy Primary School**.

Please come along and help us create a special **Guard of Honour** as we celebrate his dedication and the lasting impact he has made on our school community. Let's cheer him on and show our appreciation for everything they have done over the years. All current and ex pupils, parents, staff and friends of the school are welcome to attend.

We hope to see as many of you there as possible to make this a memorable farewell!

 **Thursday 2nd April**

 **3:00 PM**

 **Dame Dorothy Primary School**

YEAR 5 – BEACH DAY FUN

While some of our Year 5 and 6 pupils were away at Derwent Hill, those who remained in school enjoyed a fantastic morning at the beach!

The children had a brilliant time exploring the shoreline, searching for different types of rocks and were thrilled to discover some beautiful quartz. Their keen eyes didn't miss a thing - spotting sea glass and a variety of interesting shells along the way.

Creativity was in full flow as the sand soon transformed into an incredible city, complete with at least 30 sandcastles. It was wonderful to see such fantastic teamwork and imagination on display!

To top off a perfect morning, everyone enjoyed a delicious ice cream from Sue's Cafe. We are always so grateful for these special treats and for Sue's continued support of Dame Dorothy.



TENNIS

Congratulations to our tennis squad from Y3 & Y4 who won the cluster school tournament against Redby and Grange Park at Monkwearmouth Academy. The children competed in matches and skills challenges to a high standard and narrowly came out on top. Their behaviour and conduct was first class throughout the event and they were a credit to our school.



PARENTS EVENING

Reminder: You will have the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher on Monday 30th March to discuss their progress this year.

Appointments can be booked on the Arbor app. Raffle and Tombola tickets will be on sale, please note this will be cash only.

Easter Raffle

Available to purchase from the School Office.

Tickets - £1

Afternoon Tea for 2 at the Roker Hotel



The spring term comes to an end on Thursday 2nd April with our traditional Easter Egg hunt on the school field.

One of the best days in the school calendar.

School closes at normal time (3:15pm) and re-open on Monday April 20th with Breakfast Club from 8am.

SWIMMING – YEAR 4

On our return after the break, it is the turn of year 4 to go swimming at the Aquatic Centre.

They will need to bring a bag with a towel and swimming costume/shorts. A contribution of £10 is payable via the Arbor app and school subsidises the remaining cost.

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 **100%** are **Year 5**.

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

- 3 - 17th Apr - Easter Holidays – School re-opens on Monday 20th April
- 20th Apr - Y4 Swimming (weekly)