

Newsletter

11th September 2026

Head of School Update

It's hard to believe that we're already a week and a half into the new school year! Before we returned in September, I wrote to pupils recognising that coming back to school can bring lots of different feelings, including nerves (for both pupils and teachers alike!) A quote from *Peter Pan* springs to mind:

*"What if I fall?"
"Oh, but my darling, what if you fly?"*

Well, our pupils have certainly flown since the start of term! They have made such a calm, confident and positive start to the year, showing us every day what it means to be ready, respectful and safe. These values help create a school where everyone can flourish, and it has been wonderful to see our pupils embracing them so naturally.

A special mention must go to those pupils who are new to Dame Dorothy this year. Starting at a new school takes courage, and it has been lovely to see how quickly you have settled in, made new friends and become part of school life. We are delighted to have you here. How lucky are we that you are part of our Dame Dorothy community!

At the start of the term, I asked every pupil to simply do their best. They have absolutely risen to that challenge, and I couldn't be prouder of them. From their attitude in lessons to the way they have supported one another around school, they have impressed us all!

The hardest part of writing this message has been deciding which moments to highlight! There have already been so many reasons to celebrate. Thankfully, our staff have shared some of their own magic moments from the first few weeks of term throughout this newsletter, so I will leave them to tell those stories.

Keep flourishing, Dame Dorothy!
Have a wonderful weekend everyone.

Laura Tullock
Head of School

Magic Moments

One of the best things about a new term is discovering the magic in everyday moments. Here, our staff share some of the highlights that have made the start of the year so special for their classes. Next week we will start celebrating our shining stars in assembly, for now we're sure these magic moments will make you as proud as they have made staff!

EYFS

What a fantastic start our EYFS children have made! We've been so impressed with how bravely they've been coming into school each morning, finding their pegs and hanging up their coats and bags all by themselves. They are settling in brilliantly and are already showing us just how ready they are for learning!

Mrs Gibson

Year 1

Year 1 have loved exploring their new classroom and have settled into their new routines beautifully. It has been lovely to see the kindness they have shown towards one another, as well as their enthusiasm and excitement for learning. They have particularly enjoyed Science, where they have been learning all about the different parts of the body. They have made such a wonderful start to Year 1!

Mrs Routledge

Year 2

Year 2 have shown remarkable resilience as they've stepped into brand-new routines. They've had to listen carefully to lots of new instructions, tried their best to remember each step and kept going when things felt a little tricky or different. They have already produced some truly lovely, high-quality work. I am so proud of their positivity and how they are growing into confident Year 2 learners!

Miss Muldowney

Year 3

Year 3 have made an excellent start to the year! They have showed great effort and resilience in their learning. In English they have worked hard to create some amazing expanded noun phrases and have loved exploring their new class text! Each day they are trying hard to show respect in all areas of school life and are becoming confident year 3 learners!

Miss Jenkinson

Year 4

Year 4 have demonstrated exceptional respect in all areas of school life. The children have supported one another, shown consistent kindness, and treated others with consideration. They have been excellent role models when lining up, moving around school, and showing they are ready to learn.

Miss Thompson

Year 5

I have seen the mature and respectful way the children approached our School Council elections. They prepared thoughtful manifestos and showed great confidence by standing in front of the class to explain why they felt they would make a good representative. Those who were elected were genuinely congratulated by their classmates, while those who were not successful showed resilience and maturity in accepting the result.

Mrs Campion

Year 6

In science, the class worked in teams to build circuits, revisiting their learning from Year 4. They helped each other, discussed different methods and, even when their circuits weren't working, devised different ways to solve the problem.

Mr Robinson

Attendance

What a fantastic start to the new school year! It has been lovely to see our children back at Dame Dorothy, catching up with friends, sharing summer memories and learning together once again. Please see the reminder below about the importance of regular attendance and punctuality to help every child make the most of their school day.

You belong with us

At Dame Dorothy Primary School, every child is an important part of our school family. When children come to school every day, they learn, grow, laugh and create memories with their friends and teachers. They contribute to class discussions, take part in exciting experiences and help make our school a happy place to be. When a child is absent, we notice. Their classmates miss their friendship, their ideas and their contributions. Teachers miss seeing them and supporting them in their learning. Most importantly, children can miss out on valuable moments that help them feel connected, confident and included.

Every day counts, because you count!

School day

Breakfast club: 8.00

Main doors open:
8.45 – 8.55

School starts: 8.55

End of school: 3.15
(3.10 for Early Years)



IN ONE YEAR



Attendance matters

The importance of being on time

Every minute in school counts.

Arriving on time helps children start the day positively and confidently alongside their classmates. The first few minutes of the school day are important for settling in, understanding the day's learning and making a successful start.

When children arrive late, they can miss valuable learning opportunities and important information that supports their progress throughout the day.

At Dame Dorothy Primary School, we know that mornings can sometimes be challenging. However, establishing good routines and arriving on time helps children feel calm, ready to learn and prepared to achieve their best.

Thank you for supporting your child by ensuring they attend school every day and arrive punctually.

Absence from school

Medical Appointments

Where possible, please arrange routine appointments outside school hours.

Illness

If your child is unwell, please contact the school office as soon as possible on **0191 2505525**. We will work with families to support children in returning to school as quickly as appropriate.

Family Holidays

School holidays provide plenty of opportunities for family time. We encourage holidays to be taken during school holiday periods whenever possible to avoid disruption to learning.

Safeguarding

Summer hasn't left us yet! ☀️

With some warm(ish) weather expected over the next few weeks, many families may be planning a trip to the beach to enjoy our local area.

Please be aware that Saturday 6th September marked the end of lifeguard patrols at Roker Beach. This means there will be no lifeguards on duty, and no beach safety flags in place.

If you and your children are enjoying time by the sea in the coming weeks, we encourage you to take a few minutes to read this helpful RNLI Beach Safety Leaflet, which contains important advice on staying safe in and around the water.

Key reminders:

- Always supervise children closely near water.
- Be aware of changing sea and weather conditions.
- Know what to do if you get into difficulty: Float to Live.
- Take extra care as there will be no lifeguards available to provide assistance.

Please take a look at the leaflet attached and help us keep everyone safe while enjoying the coast:



Thrive



If you were a wild animal, what would you be?

We are proud to be a Thrive School. Thrive is a whole-school approach that supports the social and emotional development of children and young people, helping them to feel safe, valued and ready to learn.

An important part of this approach is supporting children to recognise and talk about their feelings. We have started the term with some Thrive check-ins, which give children the opportunity to share how they are feeling by answering a simple question. Their responses can then lead to

meaningful discussions about their emotions and experiences.

As parents ourselves, we know that it can sometimes be difficult to encourage children to talk about their day and how they feel about it. Over the next few weeks, we will be sharing some simple questions that you can ask your child at home to help start these conversations and support their emotional wellbeing. We hope they lead to some great conversations and provide opportunities to connect, reflect and share together.

Thank Crunchie its Friday

Don't forget about our "Thank Crunchie It's Friday" initiative, which gives families the opportunity to recognise and celebrate a member of staff who has made a difference during the week.

Whether a staff member has shown a random act of kindness, gone the extra mile to support your child, shared encouraging words, or simply brightened someone's day, we'd love to hear about it!

Nominations can be made quickly and easily via the Arbor app, and one lucky member of staff will receive a Crunchie as a thank you for the positive impact they have made.

Let's continue to celebrate the wonderful people who help make Dame Dorothy such a special place to learn, grow and belong together. 💙 💛



Diary Dates

INSET DAYS (SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN):

- 23rd October
- 19th July
- 20th July
- 21st July

HALF TERM DATES (SCHOOL CLOSED):

- 26th October - 31st October
- 21st December - 1st January
- 15th February - 19th February
- 16th March - 9th April
- 31st May - 4th June



STEM BUDDIES
LEARN • EXPLORE • GROW



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS
Back for another great year!

Fun Friends
New Skills!

 Based at the **Community Hub**
next door to school

Our popular after-school
clubs are back! <

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 ANIMAL CLUB	 SCIENCE & LEGO CLUB	 FOOTBALL CLUB	 BAKING CLUB	 NERF CLUB
3.30pm to 5.00pm	3.30pm to 5.00pm	3.30pm to 5.00pm	3.30pm to 5.00pm	3.30pm to 5.00pm



WHO CAN JOIN?
Children from reception class upwards



COST

- £22.50 for a 7-week club programme
- **NERF Club:** £20 for 6 weeks



PLACES ARE LIMITED
So we encourage families to book early to avoid disappointment.



SCAN TO BOOK



If you have any questions or need help with booking, please contact STEM Buddies at info@stembuddiescic.co.uk

Real Activities ✓ Big Smiles ✓ Lasting Skills

