Newsletter

18th September 2026

Stars of the Week	
Reception	Phoebe
Year 1	Olivia
Year 2	Alisha
Year 3	Reece
Year 4	Roman
Year 5	Aashika
Year 6	Robin

Head of School Update

It has been lovely to see everyone so settled into the new school year this week. Confidence is growing each day, classrooms are busy with learning, and our children are demonstrating our school values of being Ready, Respectful and Safe.

The first two weeks of school are always full of excitement, new routines and lots of hard work. I know there are some tired children out there, and I suspect there are some tired staff members too! Thank you to everyone for the positive start you have helped to create.

I hope you all enjoy a fabulous and restful weekend with family and friends. We can't wait to welcome everyone back on Monday, refreshed and ready for another great week of learning.

Week 4, we are ready for you!

Have a wonderful weekend everyone
Laura Tullock
Head of School

You said... we listened

In our parent survey back in June, many of you told us that you'd like more information about upcoming events and meetings so you can plan ahead. We heard you!

Today, all parents have been emailed a Parent Planner for their child's year group, giving an overview of the events currently planned for the Autumn Term. We hope this helps you see what's coming up and makes it easier to organise family calendars.

We're also excited to have introduced some new events to our school calendar this half term, which we have detailed below.

Please keep in mind that this may not include every event. Sometimes exciting opportunities come up throughout the term and we would never want our children to miss out. If additional events are arranged, we'll make sure to keep you updated as soon as we can.

The planner is intended to give you a helpful overview of the term ahead. We'll continue to share more detailed information, including timings and arrangements, as soon as possible, if not already stated. For now, we wanted to get the bigger picture to you as early as possible.

Thank you for your feedback and support as we continue to improve how we communicate with our families.

Upcoming Events

Head of school parental forum: Tuesday 13th October 9.00 - 10.00

At Dame Dorothy, we are proud to be a community school and want to make sure that the voices of our families are heard.

Our Head of School Parent Forum is an opportunity for parents and carers to meet with Mrs Tullock, share their views, ask questions and raise any issues or ideas they may have. Your feedback helps shape our decisions and ensures that we continue to strengthen the partnership between home and school.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our first Parent Forum of the year!

Please let us know if you are coming using this form:
https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/gBn3Z8Asgh

Dame Dorothy Community Library: Wednesday 21st October 3.20 - 4.15

At Dame Dorothy, we love reading and want to inspire every child to develop a lifelong love of books! Reading together is one of the best ways to support your child's learning, imagination and language development, and we want to make it as easy as possible for all families to access great books. Our **Dame Dorothy Community Library** gives families the chance to borrow books from our school library to enjoy together at home. Join us after school, where you can browse the library with your child, discover new stories and choose books to take home.

Whether you're looking for a bedtime story, a new favourite author or a book to enjoy together over the holidays and beyond, there's something for everyone! We hope you'll take this opportunity to visit, explore and share the joy of reading with your child

Parental online safety workshop: Thursday 22nd October 9.00 - 10.00 or 3.30 - 4.30
Following feedback from our recent Relationships and Health Education (RHE) curriculum consultation, where many parents told us they would welcome more support and guidance around online safety, we are pleased to offer an Online Safety Workshop. This session will provide practical advice, useful resources, and up-to-date information to help families support children in staying safe, responsible, and confident online. We look forward to working together to promote positive digital wellbeing for all of our community.

To book a place please use this form: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/eVF0LkP3vx

A message from Year 5



Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic afternoon bringing their classroom learning about Sunderland's shipbuilding history to life. Our visit began at Keel Square, where the children explored the ship timeline and were fascinated to learn that it is the same length as the longest ship ever built in Sunderland.



They also loved the wheel sculpture, discovering photographs and stories of people connected to the city's shipbuilding past. We then visited the new Culture House, where many children were excited to find out about the library and how they can become members.



The afternoon finished with a walk along the quayside and sculpture trail. Pupils visualised where Sunderland's famous shipyards once stood, imagined the huge ships that were built there, and learned about the sculptures that celebrate our city's proud maritime heritage. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring local history to life and deepen the children's understanding of Sunderland's past.

A message from Year 4

Year 4 have had a fantastic time exploring our local area as we begin our new topic on Sunderland glassmaking. To bring our learning to life, we headed to Roker Beach to investigate the coastline and search for one of the fascinating reminders of Sunderland's glassmaking past – sea glass.



Armed with keen eyes and plenty of enthusiasm, the children explored the beach, carefully searching amongst the sand and pebbles for pieces of weathered glass. They were excited to discover the different colours, shapes and textures of the sea glass they found and began to think about how these pieces may have ended up on the shoreline.

Our visit provided a wonderful opportunity to explore the important connection between Sunderland's coastline and its glassmaking industry.

The coast played a significant role in the production and transportation of glass, helping Sunderland develop a strong reputation for glassmaking and trade. As the children explored Roker Beach, they were able to make meaningful links between the landscape around them and the history of our local area.





Attendance

Every day your child is in school matters. It is about so much more than attendance; it is about learning, growing in confidence, and building lasting friendships.

Even occasional absences can mean missing the small moments that make a big difference: a piece of learning that suddenly clicks, a shared laugh with a friend, or an opportunity to feel proud of an achievement.

We understand that some mornings do not go quite as planned. If there is anything making it difficult for your child to come to school, please talk to us. We are here to work alongside you and offer support.

This week's attendance winners are Year 1

Safeguarding

As we begin a new school year, it is a timely opportunity to remind ourselves of the important role we all play in keeping children safe online. The digital world offers many benefits for learning and communication, but it is essential that children are supported to navigate it safely and responsibly.

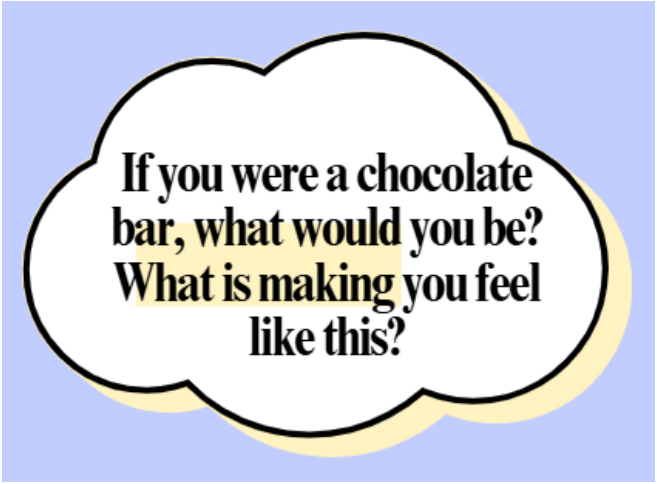
This week, we are sharing two helpful guides for families. One focuses on supporting children under five to enjoy age-appropriate online experiences safely, while the other provides practical advice and information for parents and carers of children older than 5. We encourage all families to take a few minutes to read the guidance and discuss online safety at home.

Top Tips for Essential Online Safety | E-Safety

Free Online Safety Guide | Online Safety for Under 5s

Thrive

Last week, we shared our pride at becoming a Thrive School and our commitment to supporting the emotional wellbeing of every child. As part of this work, we are starting each day with a Thrive Check-In, giving children the opportunity to share how they are feeling by answering a simple question. These responses can lead to meaningful conversations about emotions, experiences and wellbeing, helping children to feel listened to, understood and supported.



Over the next half term, we will be sharing some of these questions with families and encourage you to use them at home to open up discussions with your child. As staff, we often find that the most important part of the conversation comes from asking "Why?" and taking the time to listen to the answer. We also find that being honest about our own feelings and experiences helps children to feel comfortable sharing theirs.

We hope you enjoy answering this week's question together at home!

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):

- 1st September
- 23rd October
- 19th July
- 20th July
- 21st July

HALF TERM DATES:

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

Dame Dorothy Primary School 2026-2027

August 2026

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31						1	2
32	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
33	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
34	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
35	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
36	31						

September 2026

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
36		1	2	3	4	5	6
37	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
38	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
39	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
40	28	29	30				

October 2026

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40				1	2	3	4
41	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
42	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
43	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
44	26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2026

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44							1
45	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
46	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
47	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
48	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
49	30						

December 2026

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
49		1	2	3	4	5	6
50	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
51	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
52	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
53	28	29	30	31			

January 2027

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
53					1	2	3
1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
4	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2027

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2027

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
12	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
13	29	30	31				

April 2027

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
13				1	2	3	4
14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
16	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
17	26	27	28	29	30		

May 2027

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
17						1	2
18	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
21	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
22	31						

June 2027

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22		1	2	3	4	5	6
23	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
24	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	28	29	30				

July 2027

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
26				1	2	3	4
27	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
28	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
29	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
30	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Bank holidays 2026/27 UK

31 August '26	August Bank Holiday
25 December '26	Christmas Day
26 December '26	Boxing Day
28 December '26	
1 January '27	New Year's Day
26 March '27	Good Friday
29 March '27	Easter Monday
3 May '27	Early May Bank Holiday
31 May '27	Spring Bank Holiday

Inset days