# Newsletter

## 13th November 2026

| Stars of the Week | |
|---|---|
| Reception | Ivy-Rose |
| Year 1 | Joel |
| Year 2 | Archie |
| Year 3 | Layla |
| Year 4 | Dalaney |
| Year 5 | Hevar |
| Year 6 | Gemma |

# Head of School Update

What a reflective week it has been at Dame Dorothy! This week our assemblies have focused on remembrance, respect and gratitude, and our children have shown real maturity and thoughtfulness as they have learned why we take time each year to pause and remember.

I was incredibly proud of our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils, who were so respectful during our remembrance celebrations around the poppy at the front of school. Our Year 5 pupils read *In Flanders Fields* beautifully. Its call to take up the torch and "hold it high" felt especially fitting as we watched our oldest children lead the way with such respect. Our youngest children in Early Years have also been busy exploring poppies and what they mean, asking brilliant questions. From our youngest to our oldest, the whole school has come together to say, "We will remember them."

Remembrance also reminds us to be grateful for what we have today, and there is one thing we can all be grateful for: our amazing pupils! When I asked children this week who they are grateful for, there was no hesitation at all. The answer, again and again, was "my family." I'm sure that if I asked you the same question, you would say your child. Aren't we a lucky school community!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for the part you play in helping our children become kind, respectful and thoughtful young people.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone!

**Laura Tullock**
**Head of School**

# School Dinners

Next week is week 3 of our lunch menu. We are sharing it here so you can look together with your child and help them decide which option they'll be choosing each day.

## Week Three






**MAIN**: Cheese and tomato swirl with herby potatoes or vegetable enchilada with sunshine rice. Both served with vegetables
Jacket potatoes are also available
**DESSERT**: Steamed lemon sponge and custard






**MAIN:** Beef or vegetable burger with seasoned twisters and beans
Pasta is also available
**DESSERT:** Chocolate krispie crunch




**MAIN:** Beef or Quorn mince and dumplings with gravy, roast potatoes
A selection of sandwiches are available
**DESSERT:** Fruit crumble and ice cream




**MAIN**: Chicken breast or Quorn chicken breast with boiled rice, curry sauce, naan bread and vegetables
A selection of paninis are available
**DESSERT:** Marble muffin






**MAIN**: Battered fish fillet or cheese and tomato pizza. Both served with chips and vegetables
Sandwich selection is also available
**DESSERT**: Orange crisp biscuit

**A SELECTION OF FRESH BREAD AND SALAD IS AVAILABLE EVERY DAY**



**FRESH FRUIT, FRUIT SALAD AND YOGHURT ARE AVAILABLE AS ALTERNATIVE DESSERT OPTIONS EVERY DAY**

# Attendance

As we head into the colder months, coughs and colds are doing the rounds, and it can be tricky to know whether your child is well enough for school. The good news is that a mild cold doesn't usually mean a day off. A runny nose, sore throat or slight cough is fine for school, as long as your child is otherwise well.

Every day in school matters. It's a chance to learn, to be with friends and to be part of everything that makes Dame Dorothy so special. Even when they're feeling a little under the weather, children often perk up once they're in the classroom with their friends, and our staff will always keep a caring eye on them. A quick reminder at home to use tissues and wash hands well also helps keep everyone healthy. If you're ever unsure, the NHS link below has helpful guidance, and our office team are always happy to help.

Thank you for your support in helping our children be in school, learning and thriving, every day.

Is my child too ill for school? | NHS: https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

**Belong together. Learn together. Flourish together.** ♡

This week's attendance winners are: **Reception with 99%**

## Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

**Does your child have a high temperature (38ºC or more)?** YES Keep them off school until it goes away. NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

| Should go in | Should go in (let the school know) | Seek treatment before returning to school | Keep them off (at first) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **A cough, cold or sore throat**<br>Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature. | **Cold sores**<br>Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels. | **Impetigo**<br>They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school. | **Ear infection**<br>If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away. |
| **Threadworms**<br>Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment. | **Conjunctivitis**<br>Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly. | **Ringworm**<br>See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment. | **Measles**<br>They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system. |
| | **Head lice & nits**<br>You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP. | **Scarlet fever**<br>They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics. | **Vomiting & diarrhoea**<br>Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours). |
| | **Hand, foot & mouth disease**<br>If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly. | **Chickenpox**<br>Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared. | |
| | **Slapped cheek syndrome**<br>Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome. | | |

**Feeling worried or anxious:** It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

# Safeguarding

Now that the evenings are getting darker, everyday journeys like the school run, after-school club pick-ups and walks home carry a little more risk. Helping children to be seen, and to stay alert, makes a big difference to keeping them safe.

For younger children, hold hands near roads, remind them not to run ahead, and add reflective strips or bands to coats, bags and scooters. For older children walking or cycling on their own, encourage them to keep phones and headphones away, stick to well-lit routes rather than dark shortcuts, and check their bike lights work before setting off. If you're driving, please always check that children are clear before pulling off a driveway.

The link below has more practical tips for keeping children of all ages safe in the dark. Thank you, as always, for working with us to keep our children safe.
Keeping children safe in the dark - First aid for life: https://firstaidforlife.org.uk/keeping-children-safe-in-dark/

# Supporting Our Community

As we head into the festive season, it's a lovely time to think about how we can help and look out for one another. One small way we can do this is by sharing what we no longer need.

If you have any Christmas jumpers at home that your children have outgrown, or that you no longer wear, please consider donating them to school. We'll make them available to any family who might like one, so that everyone can join in the festive fun. Jumpers in all sizes, for children and adults, are very welcome and can be handed in at the school office.

Small acts of kindness like this make a big difference! Thank you, as always, for your kindness and generosity.






# Children In Need - Thank You!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Children in Need fundraising today! We are delighted to announce that we raised an amazing **£103** for this fantastic cause.
Thank you to all our children, families and staff for getting involved, showing their support and helping make a difference.
Every penny counts! 🐻 💛

# Odd Socks Day

On Monday 16th November which marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week. We will be taking part in Odd Socks Day to help raise awareness of bullying. Children should come to school in their uniform as normal but with their best odd socks on! Odd Socks Day is a fun and simple way to raise awareness and show our support!



# Year 5 at the Farrell Centre



Year 5 recently visited the Farrell Centre in Newcastle to learn more about architecture and the diverse range of careers involved in designing sustainable communities.

During the visit, the children took part in a practical design challenge, creating their own bedroom layouts while working accurately to scale. They also used net shapes to construct 3D models for their housing designs, helping them to develop their understanding of how architects turn plans into buildings. The children thoroughly enjoyed applying their mathematical and design skills in a real-world context.



They also explored a detailed model of Newcastle and learned about the work of renowned architect Sir Terry Farrell, including some of his most notable designs, such as the Life Centre that we visited the previous week.



A particularly exciting part of the day involved studying maps and architectural plans of Sunderland's Sheepfolds development. The children learned about the area's regeneration and discovered that they will be contributing to an ongoing project linked to the site over the next two terms.

Inspired by the plans for the development, the children worked collaboratively to design their own proposals for the site, considering what facilities, services and community spaces would best serve the local community. The children demonstrated excellent teamwork, creativity and problem-solving skills as they shared and developed their ideas.

As an added treat, we also had the opportunity to see the famous Fenwick Christmas window while making our way back to the Metro station, providing a magical end to a fascinating and inspiring day.



We were extremely proud of the children's enthusiasm, thoughtful contributions and excellent behaviour throughout the visit. The visit has provided a fantastic starting point for our ongoing work with the Sheepfolds project, and we are excited to see how the children's ideas develop over the coming terms.

DAME DOROTHY PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Christmas at Dame Dorothy Primary

A time to come together, celebrate and make special memories!

- Kindness
- Community
- Opportunity
- Brighter Futures

## Wednesday 9 December




**Christmas Community Library**

3.15pm

School Hall

## Thursday 10 December



**Year 1 & 2 Nativity**

2.30pm

## Friday 11 December



**Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner Day**



**Reindeer Run**





## Wednesday 16 December



**Nursery Stay and Play**

9am

## Wednesday 16 December



**Reception Stay and Play**

1.30pm

## Thursday 17 December



**EYFS Nativity**

9.30am

## Friday 18 December



**Christmas Carols on the Yard**

2.45pm




Let's make this Christmas magical together!

# Diary Dates

## INSET DAYS (SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN):

- 19th July
- 20th July
- 21st July

## HALF TERM DATES:

- 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**