



**Dingle Community Primary School**  
**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 Newsletter**



## A Message From Ms Heather



Dear parents and carers,

**Welcome Back**

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new term. It has been lovely to see all of the children return safely to school, settled, smiling and eager to learn.

This term has already got off to a busy start, with classrooms full of learning, enthusiasm and high expectations. Alongside this, we are working hard to explore ways to improve the range of activities available to children at lunchtime, supporting positive play, friendships and wellbeing.

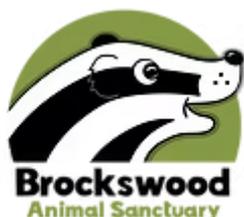
Outdoor activity is an important part of children's physical and mental wellbeing, and we aim to ensure that children have opportunities to spend time outside every day wherever possible. To support this, please ensure that children come to school with a warm waterproof jacket, as we will continue to access outdoor spaces in all but the very worst weather.

We would also like to remind families that, due to limited space in classrooms, we are unable to accommodate very large water bottles, including Stanley-style cups. These can be difficult to store safely and can cause spillages. Please send children to school with a small, practical water bottle that fits easily into classroom storage.

We look forward to welcoming you into school during Parents' Evening week, where you will have the opportunity to talk about your child's learning and progress.

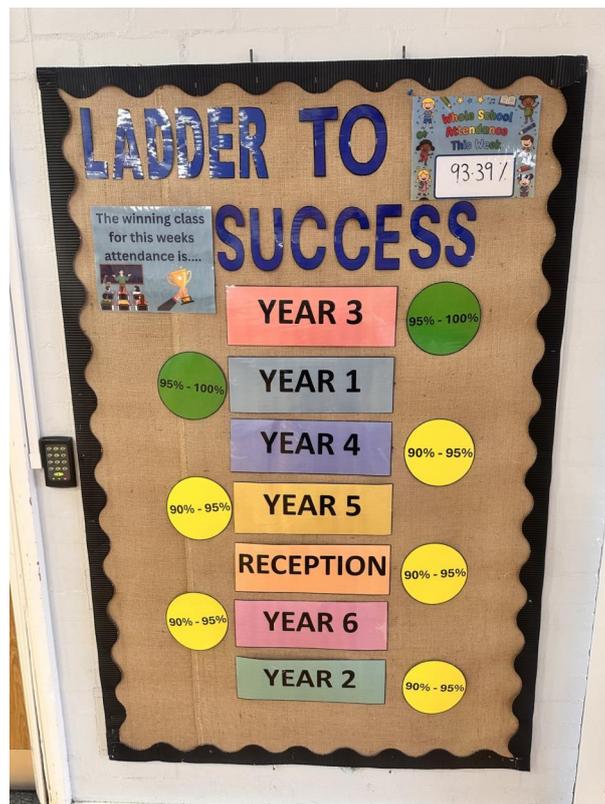
Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

## A Big Thank You



Our mufti-day on Wednesday 14th January raised an incredible £352 for Brockswood Animal Sanctuary! Thank you to all who donated, a member of their team received our donation during our assembly last Friday 16th January.

## Our New Ladder To Success Attendance Board



Our new attendance board located in the hall will be updated weekly, reflecting each classes percentages as well as the whole school attendance. **All children who have 100% attendance** at the end of each term will receive a reward. Those with 100% at the end of the school year will be entered into a grand raffle to win a big prize!

### Every Day Counts

At Dingle, we have **high expectations of ourselves and each other**, and this includes attendance. Being in school every day supports children to achieve their best, develop confidence, and build the habits they need for future success.

When attendance is poor, learning gaps quickly develop because lessons build on what has been taught before. Over time, this can affect children's progress, confidence and enjoyment of learning. In primary school, even small amounts of absence add up and can make it harder for children to keep up, particularly in reading, writing and maths.

Arriving on time is just as important. In EYFS and KS1, phonics lessons take place at the start of the day. Missing these sessions can slow progress in early reading and writing and affect access to learning across the curriculum.

Our **school attendance aim is 95%**, and achieving this reflects our shared values of **valuing every child, providing opportunity, and empowering pupils to succeed**.

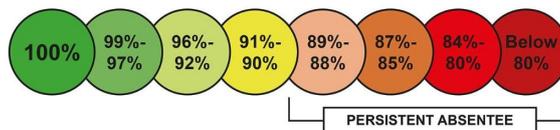
**What we are doing to promote good attendance:**

- **Termly rewards** for children achieving 100% attendance
- An **end-of-year raffle** celebrating excellent attendance
- An **Attendance Ladder of Success** so year groups can celebrate and take pride in strong attendance

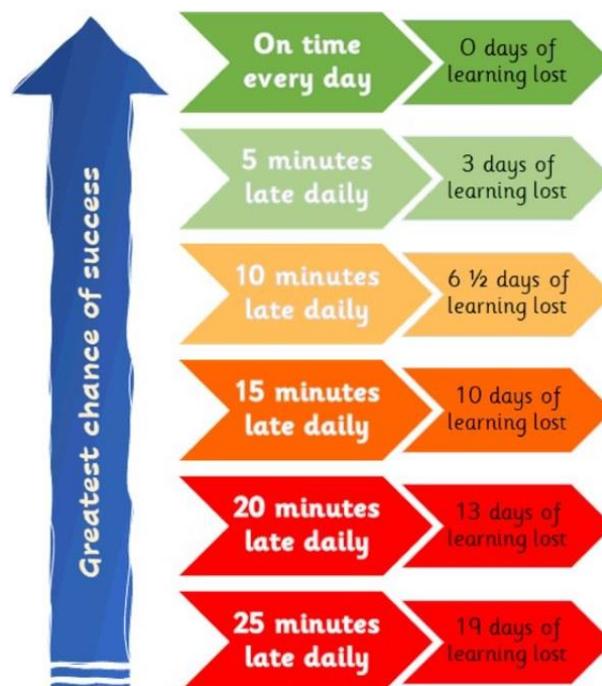
Thank you for working in partnership with us to ensure every child is in school, on time, and ready to learn every day.

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



**Which CIRCLE are you in?**



## Illnesses

To help us care for children safely and consistently, school staff will only phone home if a child is feeling unwell enough that they cannot remain in school. If a child has a minor injury or feels unwell during the day, our trained staff will follow normal first aid procedures and monitor them closely. We also kindly remind families that children should not bring non-prescribed medication into school, including items such as Sudocrem, throat lozenges, or similar products.

If your child is slightly unwell in the morning but well enough to attend school, please administer medicine to help us to prevent disturbing working parents.

Thank you for your understanding and support

### IS MY CHILD TOO ILL FOR SCHOOL?

**yes** *until...* **NHS**

<b>CHICKENPOX</b>	At least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over.
<b>DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING</b>	48 hours after their last episode.
<b>HIGH TEMPERATURE</b>	If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away.
<b>IMPETIGO</b>	Their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics.
<b>MEASLES</b>	4 days after the rash first appeared.
<b>MUMPS</b>	5 days after their swelling started.
<b>SCABIES</b>	They've had their first treatment.
<b>SCARLET FEVER</b>	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics.
<b>WHOOPIING COUGH</b>	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics.

**NO**

<b>CONJUNCTIVITIS</b>	You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.
<b>COUGHS &amp; COLDS</b>	It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold.
<b>HAND, FOOT &amp; MOUTH</b>	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.
<b>HEAD LICE</b>	There's no need to keep your child off school. You can treat head lice and nits without seeing your GP.
<b>THREADWORMS</b>	Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend treatment.
<b>SORE THROAT TONSILLITIS</b>	You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away.
<b>SLAPPED CHEEK</b>	You don't need to keep your child off school if they have slapped cheek syndrome because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious.

## Reporting Absence's In The Morning

As stated in Section 3.7 on Page 4 of our Attendance Policy, all Parents/Carers must report their child's absence before 8:45am on the day of the absence and each subsequent day of absence. For safeguarding and legal reasons, we must have any and all absences reported and recorded onto our registers, this includes our Dingle Ducks in Pre-school. Please see our attendance policy for further information. [Attendance Policy](#)

## Any Planned Absence Must Be Requested In Advance

Absence for an activity or holiday that can be arranged during the annual 13-week holiday time will not be authorised during the school term.

A penalty notice may be issued if there are five days/10 sessions or more of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period. This can include irregular attendance.

### Thinking about booking a holiday during term time?

**REMEMBER: ANY ABSENCE MUST BE REQUESTED IN ADVANCE**

Absence for an activity or holiday that can be arranged during the annual 13-week holiday time will not be authorised during the school term.

A penalty notice may be issued if there are five days/10 sessions or more of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period. This can include irregular attendance.

**First offence** - the first time a penalty notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance, the amount will be **£160** per parent per child to be paid within 28 days. Reduced to **£80** per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.\*

A penalty will be issued for each child	A family of two parents and two children
 £160 + £160 + £160	 £160 + £160
3 x children + 1 parent = <b>£480</b> reduced to <b>£240</b> if paid within 21 days	2 x children + 2 parents = <b>£640</b> reduced to <b>£320</b> if paid within 21 days

**Second offence** (within 3 years) - the amount will be **£160** per parent per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.\*

			
2 parents +	1 child	2 children	3 children
	£320	£640	£960

**Third offence** - a penalty notice will not be issued, the case will be presented to the Magistrates' Court for prosecution, where either a fine of up to **£2,500**, a community order or a custodial sentence of up to three months can be imposed. A conviction in the Magistrates' Court may be disclosed on future DBS certificates.

\*Full time penalty notice amount also subject to prosecution fees correct as of September 2025

**Dudley**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

# School Attendance

*Every day counts...*

**Good attendance helps with...**

**Academic Achievement**

Regular attendance helps children stay on track with the curriculum and achieve stronger academic results.

**Social Skills**

Being in school every day helps children make friends, develop important social skills and feel part of the school community.

**Routine & Responsibility**

Attending school regularly teaches the importance of commitment, routine and responsibility, helping children build valuable life skills.

**Focus & Engagement**

Children who attend school regularly are more likely to stay engaged in their learning and develop a positive attitude towards education.

**Building Confidence**

Regular attendance can boost a child's self-esteem and confidence, as they see their progress and achievements over time.

**Enhanced Learning Opportunities**

School offers more than academic learning – it provides clubs, activities and enrichment opportunities that help children discover new interests and talents.

**Over half a term missed!**

Days Absent	Attendance %
0 Days Absent	100%
10 Days Absent	95%
19 Days Absent	90%
29 Days Absent	85%
38 Days Absent	80%
47 Days Absent	75%

**Did you know there are...**

- 365 Days in a Year
- 190 School Days
- 175 Non School Days

**Having 90% over 5 school years, is half a school year's work missed!**

**Tips for Supporting Good Attendance...**

**Set a regular routine**

A consistent bedtime and morning routine helps children feel ready for school and reduces last-minute stress.

**Aim for every day**

Try to make school attendance the default. Only keep your child off if they are genuinely unwell.

**Plan appointments carefully**

Where possible, book medical or dental appointments outside school hours so your child doesn't miss lessons.

**Talk positively about school**

Get about your child's day and celebrate the little things they enjoy. Your positivity helps them look forward to school.

**Stay in touch**

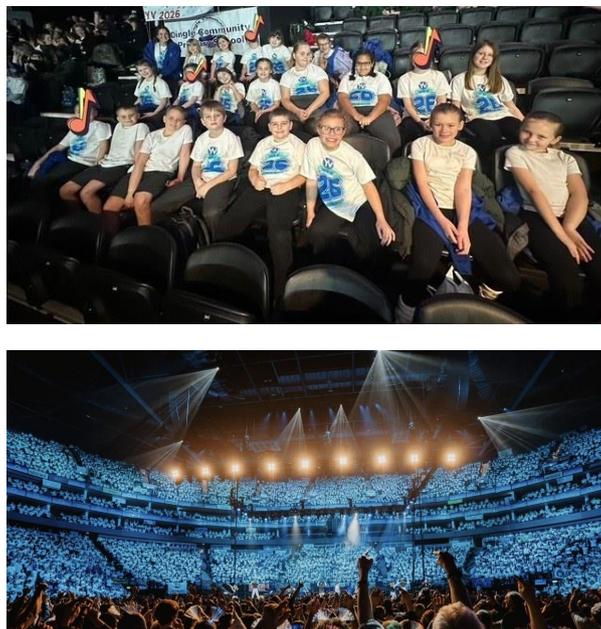
When a child is struggling, early communication with the school helps everyone find solutions and makes things easier for the child.

**Prepare the night before**

Pack bags, lay out clothes and check homework in the evening. To make morning smoother and less stressful.

Silly School Education

## A shoutout to our Young Voices Members!



On 12th January, Dingle Community Choir participated for the first time in the Young Voices Concert at BP Pulse Arena in Birmingham.

The concerts, which have been running for 30 years, are a global celebration of music and each evening children join choirs from across their region to sing as part of a 5,000-piece ensemble. The children have been learning 11 songs (some with actions) since September, and we could not have felt prouder of how they represented us last week.

Their enthusiasm and excitement was contagious!

A huge thank you to parents who bought tickets and joined the audience and thank you to Miss Fernihough and Miss Mullard for your support on the day and during our rehearsals. (Mrs Richardson)

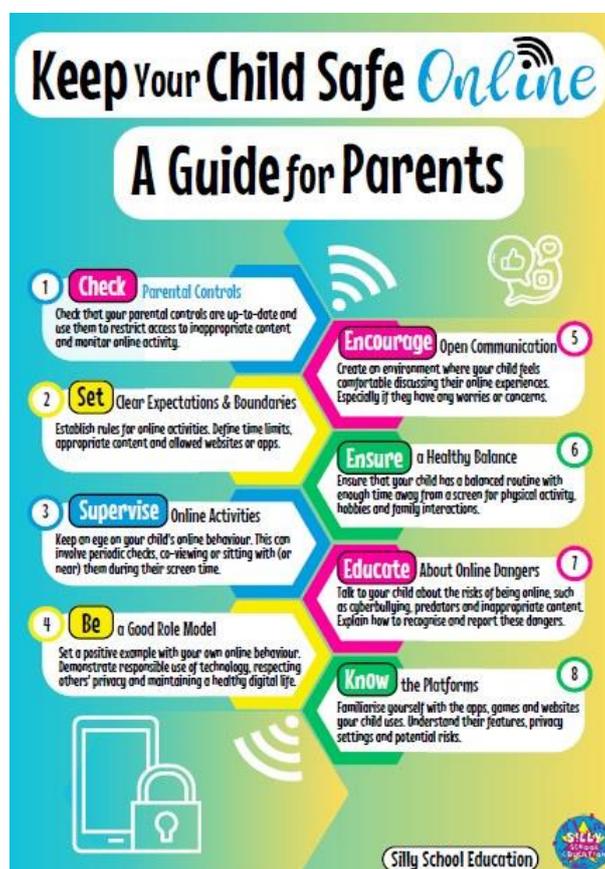
# Upcoming dates for your diary



- **Wednesday 4th February 9:00am** : Year 6 SATS Workshop for parents/carers
- **Thursday 5th February 2:30pm**: Year 4 Multiplication times table check workshop for parents/carers
- **Monday 9th February-Thursday 12th February**: Parent's Evening Week
- **Friday 16th February**: Last day of term
- **Monday 23rd February**: INSET Day
- **Tuesday 24th February**: Children return to school at 8:40am
- **Thursday 5th March**: World Book Day - The children can wear pyjamas to school and bring their favourite book
- Just a reminder that any children who would like to come into school early for **sensory circuits** are welcome to do so. It runs from 8:20 until 8:40 and takes place in the hall. There are fun activities set up designed to improve the children's core strength which will support them with fine motor skills including handwriting.
- **Maths club** is also open at 8:20am to children in year 3,4 and 5 every morning. The children can practice their times tables on TT Rockstars and basic number skills.
- **Soft Start** is still available from 8:20 in the Nurture room for any children who are finding it difficult to transition into school at the start of the day.
- **We ask that dogs are not brought onto the school grounds, even if they are carried.**
- **We are a nut free school and ask that parents do not send in items that contain nuts, especially chocolate spread, in children's lunchboxes. If it is necessary for**

your child to have chocolate spread, please ensure that it is nut-free and that you provide a note in their lunch box stating so, otherwise we will have to call to confirm. We have several children with severe nut allergies in school.

## Online Safety



We are aware many children had electronic devices for Christmas. Please see some important recommendations for keeping your child safe online. For further advice on online safety, please visit our designated page.

<https://www.dingle.dudley.sch.uk/page/?title=Online+Safety&pid=151>

Here you will find further parent guides and many stories/resources you can share with your child.

## A Message Regarding Water Bottles



### **OVERSIZED WATER BOTTLES**

**Please Leave at Home**



### **Parents & Guardians,**

To help keep our classrooms safe, organized, and focused, children should not bring Stanley cups or oversized water bottles to school.

#### **Why Not?**

- 💧 Spill easily
- 📦 Take up desk & cubby space
- 🔊 Loud and distracting
- ⚠️ Safety concern in classrooms

#### **✓ Please Send:**

- ✓ Small, standard-sized water bottles
- ✓ Clearly labeled with your child's name

Thank you for your support! ❤️

## Trips And Visits



**Wednesday 28th January 2026:** Year 1 & 2 Toy Workshop in school

### If You Have Any Concerns About Your Child In School:

**Please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.**

#### Dingle Parent Partnership

The Dingle Parent Partnership is parents working together with Dingle Community Primary to organise fun events for our children and also raise funds to support school. **We are always in need of parental support as without this we cannot organise and run events which raise vital funds for the children to enjoy enrichment activities.** If this is something you are interested in or able to do, please contact school via phone or email.



## [Dudley Healthy Lunch Box Ideas](#)

Please ensure you are providing your child with healthy choices in their lunch box and morning break snacks.

Children in Reception, Years 1 & 2 are provided with a free piece of fruit each day so do not need to bring in a snack from home. Children in KS2 (years 3-6) should bring a healthy snack such as a piece of fruit or breakfast bar (no nuts).

We would like to notify parents that energy drinks should not be coming into school with children, instead please provide them with healthier options such as water, squash or fruit flavoured water.

We would also like to ask that parents join us in promoting healthy food and drinks choices for example by not consuming energy drinks on school site at drop off or pick up times.

For more information about planning family meals, please visit [Healthy Dudley](#).

**Autumn 2025**  
**Health & Wellbeing Update** **Dudley**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

**for children and families in Dudley**

**Healthy families**  
HENRY supports parents and carers to change family lifestyle habits and behaviours and provides a healthy start in life for children.  
In Dudley, a range of free HENRY programmes are available for parents and carers with children aged 0-12 and for those expecting a baby.  
Scan the QR code to visit the **Dudley** parenting website for information about available courses and how to book your place.  
**SCAN ME**

**Preparation for Parents (pre)**  
Get more confidence and essential preparation for life with your new baby.  
• Reduce emotional, wellbeing, relationship and the changes a new baby brings.  
• Build healthy habits from the very beginning, for both you and your baby.

**Healthy Families Right Time (pre-5 year) (0-5 years)**  
Support for parents and carers to give young children the best start in life.  
• Learn how to establish routines, boundaries, sleep and discipline that your child needs.  
• Discover how to establish routines that make a big difference to family life.

**Healthy Families Growing Up (5-10 years)**  
Support for families as children become more independent and start school.  
• Build healthy habits around food, activity, screen time and emotional wellbeing.  
• Find ways to strengthen family relationships and support your child's development.

**Site up ready!**  
Preparation for Reception (8 week course)  
Starts: 10th November 2025. Times: 10am-12pm. Location: Central Dudley.  
Healthy Families Right Time (6-12 week course)  
Starts: 10th October 2025. 12.30pm-2.30pm. Location: 1st Floor, 1st Floor, 1st Floor.  
Healthy Families Growing Up (12 week course)  
Starts: 10th October 2025. 9am-11am. Location: 1st Floor, 1st Floor, 1st Floor.

**Starting Well**  
The Starting Well section of the Healthy Dudley website has lots of information to support healthy pregnancy, infancy, childhood and adolescent health, up to age 19.  
Scan the QR code to visit **Healthy Dudley**.  
**SCAN ME**  
**HealthyDudley**  
Longer, safer, healthier lives

**Dudley Healthy Lunchbox Resources**  
Smart lunches for every stage. Our new site makes it simple and fun for parents and carers to pack healthy, tooth-friendly lunchboxes for children from 2 years old to teens, with easy portion guides and balanced meal ideas tailored to each age group.  
Scan the QR code to visit **Dudley Healthy Lunchboxes**.  
**SCAN ME**

**ParentLine**  
Confidential text messaging advice service for parents / carers of children aged 0-19 living in Dudley, or attending an education / childcare setting in the borough.  
The service, delivered by Dudley health visitors and school nurses, can provide advice and support on many topics, including: emotional health and wellbeing, parenting, healthy lifestyles, infant feeding, sleep and behaviour.  
For more information, scan the QR code or visit **Healthy Dudley**.  
**ChatHealth**  
**SCAN ME**

**CRANSTOUN**  
Empowering People, Empowering Change  
A safe and accessible space open to young people aged 13 to 25 to drop-in and access information, advice and guidance to support their wellbeing and provide help when they need it. For more information, scan the QR code to visit **CRANSTOUN ROUTES - DUDLEY**.  
**SCAN ME**

**Children & Young People's Public Health Team, Health & Wellbeing, Dudley Council**

## Parking

A reminder that the car park is for **staff and official visitor use only, unless prior arrangements have been made with myself or Mrs Hall**. If you do need to drive onto the car park outside of official school hours, for example when dropping children off for breakfast

club, please drive slowly and with due care and attention as there may be children in the vicinity.

## Uniform

School uniform helps to promote a sense of belonging and pride which we are committed to upholding. I would like to remind you of our uniform expectations which can be found on the school website at this link [Correct School Uniform Information](#) . I appreciate that uniform can be an added financial burden for families. We may be able to offer support to families if this is a concern. Please do not hesitate to speak to our friendly office team who will be able to help you. Children who are unable to take out their earrings will not be allowed to physically take part in P.E lessons.

Appropriate footwear is also expected. For health and safety reasons crocs and converse are not appropriate footwear.



Pupil Premium - are you entitled to claim?

It's really easy to do!

- Do you claim any of the following benefits?
- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance

- • Income based Employment and Support Allowance
- • Child tax credit and no working tax credit with a household income of less than £16,190
- • Universal Credit The 'Guarantee' element of State Pension Credit
- • Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If so and your child is attending a Dudley school (even if you don't live in Dudley) you can claim free school meals. Even if you don't want to take the meals, making a claim will help the school as they will receive some extra funding for each child registered for them.

It's really easy and quick to apply – an online application can be made through via the website at [Free school meals](#) .

You'll need to have your date of birth and national insurance number or national asylum support service number, along with your address and the children's details with you when you apply – you can apply for several children at a time on one application even if they are all at different schools. Staffordshire County Council will check your information and give you an immediate answer and the chance to print a confirmation. All children in reception, year 1 or year 2 are automatically entitled to free school meals, even if you don't receive one of the qualifying benefits or tax credits.

*Income-related Free School Meals (FSM) claims added before 1 April 2025 are protected until the eligible child leaves primary school (children in Reception to Year 6 as of 31 March 2025) or secondary school (young people in Years 7 to 13 as of 31 March 2025), even if parents/carers have a change in circumstance.*

*If your child is entitled to Income-related Free School Meals (FSM) and in Year 6, your eligibility will be rechecked in readiness for them to start secondary school.*

*New FSM claims added from 1 April 2025 onwards are not protected. Eligibility for new FSM claims will be regularly checked. New FSM claims will be cancelled if parents/carers are not found eligible. This may mean some children in the same family will be entitled to FSM and associated benefits (e.g. Holiday Activities and Food – HAF – Programme) while others aren't.*

## Safeguarding



At Dingle Community Primary, safeguarding is of the utmost importance. If you have any concerns regarding the safety of a child, please contact Ms Heather or Mrs Richardson for advice or support. As a member of the community, you can report safeguarding concerns by contacting: **0300 555 0050** (9:00 am -5:00pm) **0300 555 8754** (out of hours) If you believe a child is in immediate danger phone **999**.

### Contact Information

Click here to [Visit our website](#)

Tel: 01384 283699

Email: [info@dingle.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@dingle.dudley.sch.uk)