



Dingle Community Primary School
Friday 19th December 2025
Newsletter

A message from Ms Heather



Dear parents and carers,

As we come to the end of a busy and successful term, we would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful children, staff and families for your continued support.

We have shared many fantastic moments together, including trips and enrichment days, fundraising events, celebrations, festivals and our Christmas performances, all of which have made this term so special.

We are incredibly proud of our children for continuing to aim high and fill our school with smiles, laughter and festive magic.

We wish you all a restful and happy Christmas break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for the Spring Term on Monday 5th January. 2026!

Warm wishes,

Ms Heather

A big thank you to everyone who donated for the Ronald McDonald House Charities!

Attendance Matters

On Monday 15th December 2025, children who have 100% attendance were awarded for a £5.00 WHSmith voucher. An amazing well done to all of those children!

Being in school every day — and on time — is more important than ever. Following a national decline in attendance since the pandemic, regular attendance is now a key government priority because of the strong link between being in school and children's success.

Missing just 10% of school can mean missing hundreds of hours of learning over time. For younger children, arriving late often means missing key phonics and early reading lessons, which are essential foundations for future learning.

We understand that if children are too ill to attend school, keeping them at home is absolutely the right thing to do. However, if children are feeling a little under the weather, they are often still able to access their learning — sometimes with a little extra support when they arrive at school.

To celebrate good attendance, we will be sharing monthly attendance and punctuality figures with children and parents and introducing our **Ladder to Success**, with weekly rewards for the class achieving the best attendance.

By working together to be in school, on time, every day, we can help every child shine. Thank you for your continued support.

A Fresh Look at House Points

After talking with many children across school we realised that Planet Points were not as relevant as they may have been in the past. The children shared some brilliant ideas about

new house teams and we decided to introduce our new tree-themed house teams, inspired by Dingle Woods, a local area the children study in science and geography. Our new house teams are: Ash, Elm, Oak and Beech.

Children earn house points throughout the week, which are celebrated in Praise Assembly. The winning house each half term will enjoy a special reward — coming to school in their own clothes! To build teamwork and family spirit, all siblings are placed in the same house team.

Thank you to our children for their fantastic ideas and enthusiasm!



The winning house group for house points this half term is...



They were rewarded with a non-uniform day!



Money raised:

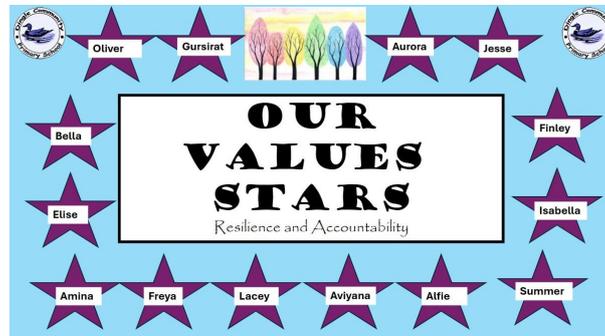


- Easter Disco and Raffle - £483.65
- Mother's Day Wrapping Room - £428.80
- Father's Day Wrapping Room - £313.44
- Donut Sale - £87.70
- Penny War - £708.83
- Summer Disco - £210.55
- Scarecrow Festival - £599.26
- Christmas Programme Sales, Raffle and Treats - £236.53
- Christmas Disco - £286.38
- Wrapping Room - £762.70

We are hoping to use the funds raised to purchase iPads for the children to use in school!
Thank you for your continued support!

Congratulations to the children named below, who are this half terms 'Value Stars'

They were nominated by teachers in the school for demonstrating our values 'Resilience and Accountability' They have a very special values star badge to wear on their uniform.



2026 Upcoming dates for the diary and reminders:



- **Monday 5th January:** Children return to school at 8:40am
- **Monday 12th January:** Young Voices Choir Performance - More details to follow
- **Thursday 15th January:** Census Day- Please book your child a school meal on this day, as this will help bring in vital extra funding into school to support your children
- **Thursday 15th January:** Reception 2026 applications deadline
- **Friday 16th February:** Last day of term
- **Monday 23rd February:** INSET Day
- **Tuesday 24th February:** Children return to school at 8:40am

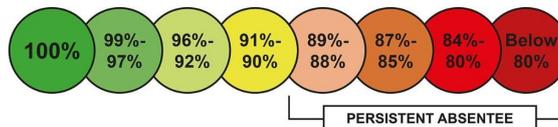
- **Thursday 5th March:** World Book Day - The children can wear pyjamas to school and bring their favourite book
- Just a reminder that any children who would like to come into school early for **sensory circuits** are welcome to do so. It runs from 8:20 until 8:40 and takes place in the hall. There 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.
- 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.
- **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.**

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](#)



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which **CIRCLE** are you in?

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!

Attendance	Days Absent	Notes
100%	0 Days Absence	Perfect!
95%	10 Days Absence	
90%	19 Days Absence	
85%	29 Days Absence	4 weeks missed
80%	38 Days Absence	
75%	47 Days Absence	

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 preparation and less stressful.

Silly School Education

IS MY CHILD TOO ILL FOR SCHOOL?

yes until..

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

NO

CONJUNCTIVITIS	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.
COUGHS & COLDS	It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold.
HAND, FOOT & MOUTH	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.
HEAD LICE	There's no need to keep your child off school. You can treat head lice and nits without seeing your GP.
THREADWORMS	Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend treatment.
SORE THROAT TONSILLITIS	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.
SLAPPED CHEEK	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.



What's on this Festive holiday?



Day	Time	Activity
Saturday 13th December	10:00-12:00	Snowman Craft (Drop in)
Saturday 20th December	10:00-12:00	Decorate a Christmas Tree Craft (Drop in)
Saturday 20th December	11:00-12:00	Lego Spike Coding (age 6 plus) Booking essential
Tuesday 23rd December	10:00-10:30	Festive Rattle & Rhyme **Bookable**
Saturday 27th December	10:00-12:00	Make a Party Hat Craft (Drop in)
Friday 2nd January	10:00-12:00	New Year Card Craft (Drop in)
Saturday 3rd January	10:00-12:00	Polar Animal Paper Plate Craft (Drop in)
Saturday 3rd January	10:30-11:30	Lego Club (Drop in)



Trips and visits



If you have any concerns about your child in school, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

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



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 Parenthood
Plan your childbirth and pregnancy preparation for the birth of your baby.

- Explore emotional wellbeing, relationships and the changes a new baby brings.
- Build healthy habits from the very beginning, for both you and your baby.

Healthy Families Right Time (0-2 years)
Support for parents and carers to give young children the best start in life.

- Learn how to establish routines, milestones, sleep and attention to engage your child.
- Build healthy habits from the very beginning, for both you and your baby.

Healthy Families Growing Up (0-5 years)
Support for families as children become more independent and start school.

- Build healthy relationships, routines, milestones, sleep and attention to engage your child.
- Find out how to strengthen family relationships and support your child's development.

Sign up today!
Preparation for Parenthood (8 week course)
Starts 21st October 2025, 10.30am - 12.30pm, Rosewood Leisure Centre
Healthy Families Right Time (2 week course)
Starts 14th October 2025, 10.30am - 12.30pm, at Dudley Hill Family Hub
Healthy Families Growing Up (10 week course)
Starts 14th October 2025, 9pm - 10pm, Online



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**.



SCAN ME

Chat-Health

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 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

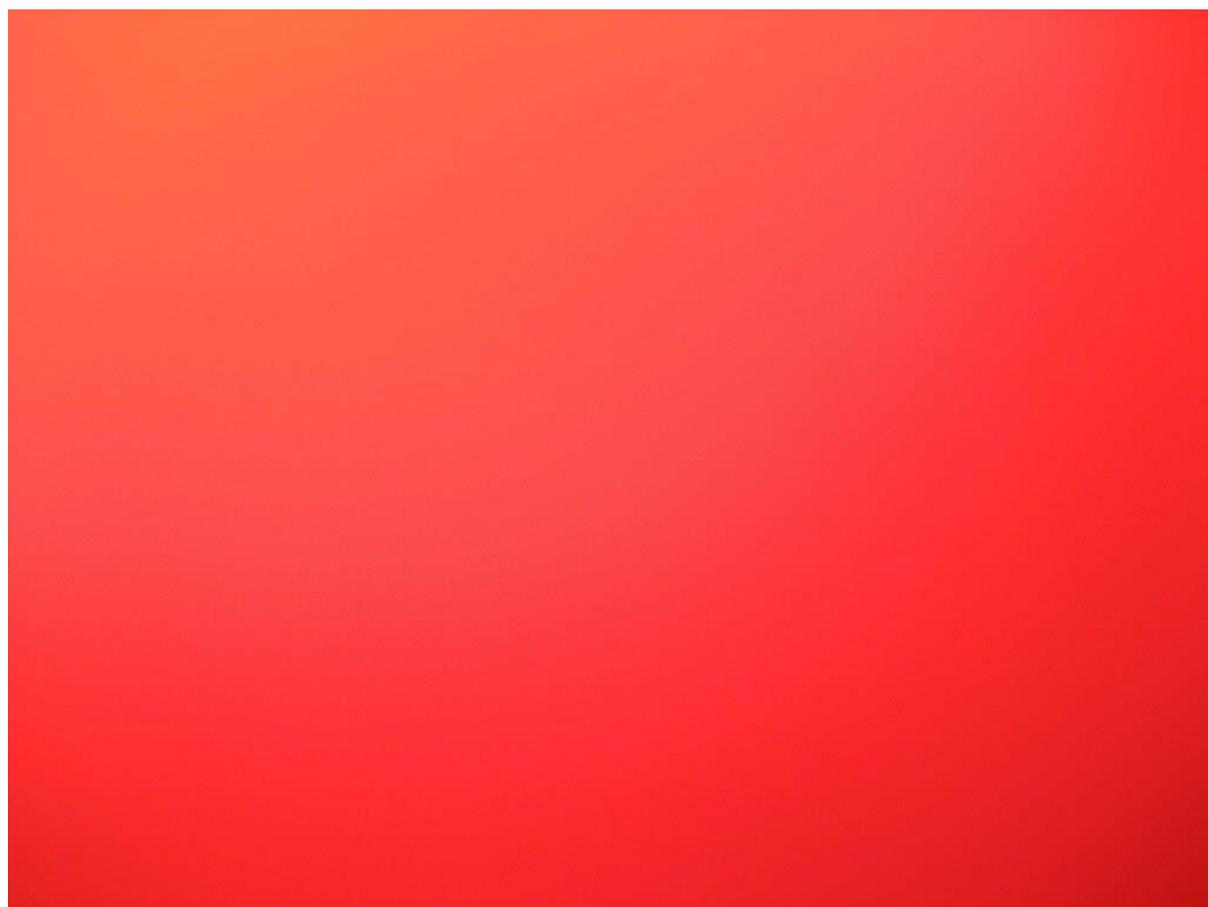
an immediate answer and the chance to print a confirmation. All children in reception, year 1 or year 2 are automatically entitled to free school meals, even if you don't receive one of the qualifying benefits or tax credits.

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