

Weekly Bulletin no.125

Friday 30th January 2026



Valentine Discos — book now on ParentPay!



We have reached the end of another great week at Darnhall. Congratulations to some of our year **6 Athletics team** on winning the local tournament. Next week they will be competing against other towns, with the hope of winning this and going through to the Cheshire Finals! Good luck Year 6 athletes!

On ParentPay you can now pay for your child's **pancake—ready for Friday 13th February**. Please make sure to preorder as we cannot accept orders on the day.

We have an amazing **'Safer Internet Day'** competition, where the lucky winner can win a £20 voucher. We can not wait to see all your posters!

The **Chair of Governors** is offering an informal drop in session at 8:30am (Key Stage 2 building) on Monday 2nd February for anyone who is interested in becoming a parent governor. Thank you to those who attended last time. There will be an election to follow.

Reminder - please complete the **google form regarding photo consent**. If you do not fill the form in, then consent will automatically be withdrawn. This is the new link: [Home/School Agreement on the use of sharing images](#)



Wednesday 4th February

Swimming lessons—Year 5

Thursday 12th February

Nursery Stay & Play
(see flyer)

Thursday 12th February

Valentine Discos
(see flyer)

Friday 13th February

Pancake Day
Order on ParentPay

Friday 13th February

School Closes for half term



Internet Safety Day (10th February 2026) Competition!



Design a poster to promote staying safe online, focussing on this year's theme: 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'.

Our team of judges will select a winner who will receive a £20 Amazon Gift Voucher! The winning poster will also be displayed around school.

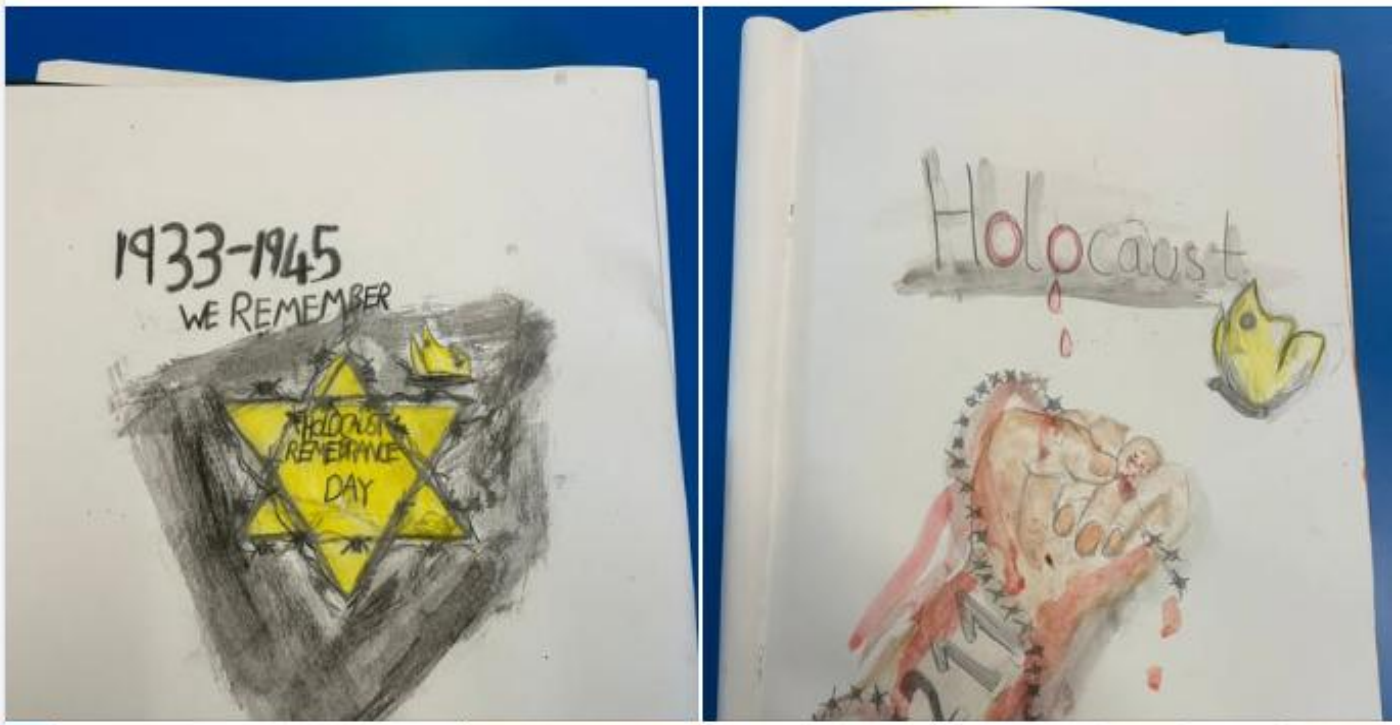


Please hand your posters into your class teacher on **Tuesday 10th February**.

Other Darnhall News

Year 6 have been learning about the Holocaust as part of Holocaust Memorial Day 2026. Through thoughtful discussion and poignant artwork, they took time to remember and honour the millions of lives lost.

We are proud of the care, empathy and respect they showed while learning about this important part of history.



Come Along to our Darnhall Doodlebugs every Friday in the KS1 Hall.

Mrs Perrin has set up some wonderful activities for your children.

We look forward to seeing you!



LADYBIRD & CATERPILLAR NURSERY CLASSES



On **Thursday 12th February 2026**, we would like to invite someone special to your child to come into Nursery for a Valentine's theme 'Stay and Play' session.

'Stay and Play' sessions are a really useful way of you getting to see the nursery environment and having the chance to share in your child's nursery experience. The stay and play experience is about getting involved in the session and playing alongside your child. It can be a bit daunting for young children if lots of adults just stand at the side of the classroom observing play.

Stay and play times will be
10:30-11:15am for **MORNING** nursery children
2:15-3:00pm for **AFTERNOON** nursery children
(parents/ carers of children who stay all day can choose either session to attend).

Due to the number of children we now have in nursery we must ask that no younger siblings attend stay and play sessions.



Please note: absolutely NO mobile phones will be allowed to come into nursery due to safeguarding.

Please let Mrs Perrin or Mrs Young know if someone will be attending. Due to space we are asking for only ONE special someone per child to attend.



Screen Time & Internet Safety

A Guide for Parents and Carers



Did You Know?

- Children aged 5-15 spend on average 5 hours 24 minutes a day on social media.
- Children aged 8-14 spend on average 2 hours 59 minutes a day on smartphones, tablets and computers.

That's a significant part of a child's day spent online.

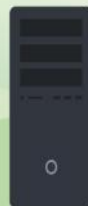


Why It Matters

Online platforms use algorithms designed to keep users watching and scrolling. These algorithms can quickly lead children from harmless content to content that may be harmful, upsetting or inappropriate, often without them searching for it. Children may not always recognise when content is unsafe or know how to respond.

Top Tips to Keep Children Safe Online

- Monitor use: know what apps, games and websites your child uses and how long they spend on them.
- Use parental controls: set age-appropriate restrictions on devices, apps, streaming services and games.
- Know when and where your child goes online: be aware of internet access at home, friends' houses and on mobile devices.
- Talk openly: encourage your child to talk about what they see online and reassure them they can come to you if something worries them.
- Set clear boundaries: agree screen-free times (e.g. before bed, during meals) and keep devices out of bedrooms where possible.
- Be a role model: children copy adult behaviour – show healthy screen habits yourself.



Working Together

Keeping children safe online works best when schools and families work together. If you need support or advice, please speak to a member of the school team.

BUTTERFLY & DRAGONFLY STAY & PLAY CLASSES

would like to invite one special person to their Valentine's stay and play session.

**Friday 13th February 2026
at 2:30pm**



To celebrate Shrove Tuesday on **Friday 13th February 2026**, we have a chef from Blakemere Village Restaurant coming to school to make pancakes!



Available for every class from Nursery to Year 6!



Pancakes will be available to purchase for £1 on ParentPay

Please note: Pancakes usually contain egg, milk and flour. (We will have some allergy friendly pancakes)

A special thanks to our friends at Blakemere and the PTA for subsidising the costs.

Cookery on a Budget

For all parents/carers and their children

Date: Wednesday 11th March 2026

Time: 1:45pm-3:10pm Location: KS2 site

Tutor: Caroline Reynolds

Want to learn how to save money and make the most of your family budget? Join us for a helpful workshop at your child's school.

Places can be booked via ParentPay

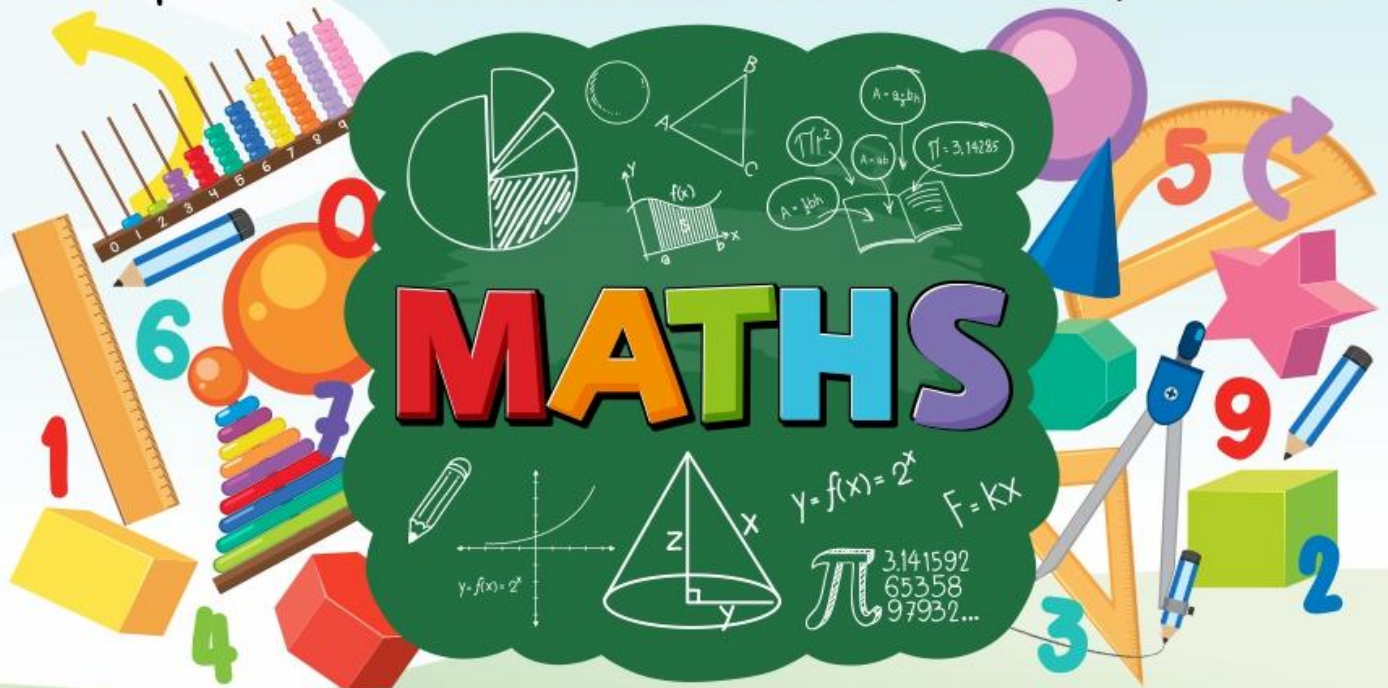


Skills and Employment Service



For parents/carers and their children in Y1, Y2 & Y3

For parents/carers and their children in Y1, Y2 & Y3




Date: Wednesday 11th February 2026

Time: 1:45-3:10pm **Location: KS2 site**

Tutor: Nina Hallmark

The interactive workshop will:

- Answer all your questions about the maths curriculum
 - Help you understand how children are taught maths in school today
 - Give you tips and ideas on how to help your child at home
 - Give you the opportunity to take part in different maths activities with your child in school.
- 
- The logo for Darnhall Primary School is located in the bottom right corner. It features a vibrant rainbow with seven bands (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet) arching over a green leaf. A red ladybug with black spots is positioned on the leaf. The text 'Darnhall Primary School' is written in a blue, curved font around the bottom of the leaf and rainbow.



Places can be booked via ParentPay



Valentine Discos

Thursday 12th February 2026

Early Years Building

Reception & Yr 1 Classes:

4:00-5:00pm

(Nursery Classes are having their own event.
See separate flyer.)

Year 2 Classes:

5:15-6:15pm

Key Stage 2 Building

Years 3 & 4 Classes

4:15-5:15pm

Years 5 & 6

5:30-6:30pm

Entry Price £1

**You can book your child's
place on ParentPay**

Due to the size of the halls and the number of children we have four sessions so it's more enjoyable for the children.

On sale on the night: snacks, drinks and other merchandise.

**Children must NOT bring lollipops,
energy drinks or snacks containing nuts.**

STRICTLY NO MOBILE PHONES



A big well done to this week's
attendance winners

Badger Class

who had a fantastic attendance
this week of **96.9%**



They have been rewarded with 15
minutes of extra outdoor play.



Important Information Regarding Holidays

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Government discourages the taking of holidays in term time. Evidence shows that children who miss school do not achieve as well as those who attend regularly.

As of September 2013, the law restricted a Headteacher's ability to authorise holidays during term time, Headteachers are now only empowered to approve a leave of absence when it is requested in advance by the parent or carer with whom the child resides, and when circumstances of the requested leave are 'exceptional'.

A new National Framework for Penalty Notices for School Absence will come into effect from the 19th August 2024. Should you choose to take a holiday for 5 consecutive school days or more during term time the Local Authority will be informed as this will constitute an unauthorised absence. A Fixed Penalty Notice will then be issued in accordance with Section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law stipulates that the current penalties payable by parents/carers are £80 when the penalty is paid within 21 days, and £160 when the penalty is paid within 28 days. This penalty is per parent/carer, per child. If the fixed penalty is not paid this could lead to you being prosecuted in the Magistrates' Court.

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second **penalty notice** to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first notice, the second notice is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days.

In cases where there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a 3 year period of the date of the first absence and if there is a 3rd occasion of unauthorised absence (10 sessions), alternative action will be taken instead. This will often include considering prosecution, but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact school and speak to **Katie Harrop** or email: contact@darnhall.cheshire.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Mrs Sarah Tomlinson
Headteacher

Darnhall Primary School, Sandyhill Road, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 1JL

Telephone: (01606) 593315 | Email: contact@darnhall.cheshire.sch.uk

Website: www.darnhall.cheshire.sch.uk | Facebook: www.facebook.com/DarnhallPrimarySchool



Here is the link
to our

**Wrap-around
Care
booking system**

[https://
darnhall.childcare
-online-
booking.co.uk](https://darnhall.childcare-online-booking.co.uk)

We offer Breakfast
Club on both sites
starting at 8am.

Home Hub After
School Club takes
place in the KS2
building and starts at
3:15pm until 6pm.

Darnhall Doodlebugs

Every Friday at 2:15pm-3:00pm

KS1 Hall

Sing, Play, Imagine & Create –
Big Adventures for Little Doodlebugs!

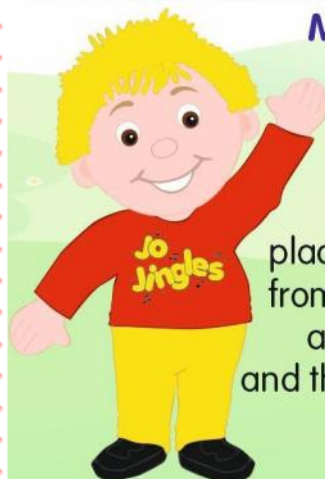


Toddler
Groups
At
Darnhall
Primary

Jo Jingles
TM
Est. 1995

sessions for parents
and carers with babies and toddlers!

Mondays in the **Key**
Stage 2 Hall from
8:45am - 9:30am



Sessions will take
place every week, apart
from the first week back
after a school holiday
and the last week of each
half term.

Sessions are FREE. No need to book

Please note, in the rare event that a class is cancelled, you will be notified via the Darnhall Nursery and Primary School Facebook page.



PopCat's
Music Time

FREE Social interaction
for parents and their little ones.
MUSIC & MOVEMENT FOR 0 to 5 YEARS

12 places available.

Please note, in the
rare event that a
class is cancelled,
you will be notified
via the Darnhall
Nursery and
Primary School
Facebook page.

Dates:

Thursday 15th January 2026
Thursday 22nd January 2026
Thursday 29th January 2026
Thursday 5th February 2026
Thursday 5th March 2026
Thursday 12th March 2026
Thursday 26th March 2026

9:00am in the KS2 Hall



Uniform Timetable

Monday 5th January to
Friday 13th February 2026



Class	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Ladybird Nursery	Uniform	Uniform	Uniform	Uniform	Uniform
Caterpillar Nursery	Uniform	Uniform	Uniform	Uniform	Forest School
Butterfly Class	Uniform	Forest School	Uniform	Uniform	Uniform
Dragonfly Class	Uniform	Uniform	Uniform	Uniform	Uniform
Centipede Class	Forest School	Uniform	Uniform	Uniform	PE Kit
Grasshopper Class	Uniform	PE Kit	Uniform	PE Kit	Uniform
Bumblebee Class	Uniform	PE Kit	Uniform	Uniform	PE Kit
Spider Class	PE Kit	Uniform	Uniform	PE Kit	Uniform
Beaver Class	Uniform	Uniform	PE Kit	Uniform	PE Kit
Hedgehog Class	PE Kit	Uniform	PE Kit	Uniform	Uniform
Otter Class	Uniform	Uniform	PE Kit	Forest School	Uniform
Rabbit Class	Uniform	Uniform	PE Kit	PE Kit	Uniform
Squirrel Class	Uniform	PE Kit	Swimming	Uniform	Uniform
Fox Class	Uniform	Uniform	Swimming	Uniform	PE Kit
Badger Class	Uniform	PE Kit	Uniform	PE Kit	Uniform
Bear Class	Uniform	Uniform	PE Kit	Uniform	PE Kit
Owl Class	Outdoor Learning Uniform	Outdoor Learning Uniform	Outdoor Learning Uniform (PE Day)	Outdoor Learning Uniform (PE Day)	Outdoor Learning Uniform



Cheshire West Young Musician of the Year 2026

**Saturday 7th March
St Johns Church Centre,
Hartford**

The competition is open to all pupils who attend schools within Cheshire West.

There are categories for both instrumental and vocal within each age group and cash bursaries are on offer for 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed performers in each. Written feedback from judges will be given to all performers.

Entries cost £7 and deadline to apply is Friday 13th February

**For more information visit:
www.lovemusictrust.com/CWYM26**

Our School Day



Nursery

(Ladybirds and Caterpillars)

Session 1: **8:30am – 11:30am**

Session 2: **12:15pm – 3:15pm**

Reception, Year 1 & 2

School Day Begins: **8:30am**

Morning Break: **10:30am – 10:45am**

Lunchtime: **12:15pm – 1:00pm**

School Day Ends: **3:10pm**



Year 3, 4, 5 & 6

School Day Begins: **8:30am**

Morning Break: **10:30am – 10:45am**

Lunchtime: **12:15pm – 1:00pm**

School Day Ends: **3:15pm**



Owl Class

(Resource Provision)

School Day Begins: **8:30am**

Morning Break: **10:30am – 10:45am**

Lunchtime: **12:15pm – 1:00pm**

School Day Ends: **3:00pm**



Dream, Believe, Learn, Achieve

Cheshire West & Chester

HAF

Holiday Activities & Food



Funded by the Department
for Education (DfE) as part
of the Holiday Activities
and Food (HAF) Programme



Department
for Education

FREE

February

HOLIDAY

CLUBS

for eligible **free school meal** children
across West Cheshire



Scan me

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL...

Please scan the QR code and contact the relevant
provider using our interactive online map.



KEEP UP WITH ALL THE HOLIDAY FUN ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES....

Go_cheshirewest and EdsentialUK

Cheshire West and Chester Council and EdsentialUK #HAF2025

If you would like help booking please call **01244 977394** or email
HAF@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



Holiday Dates 2025/2026



HOLIDAY PERIOD	DATE OF CLOSING	DATE OF RE-OPENING
Autumn Term		Wednesday 3rd September 2025
Autumn Half Term	Friday 24th October 2025	Tuesday 4th November 2025
Christmas	Thursday 18th December 2025	Monday 5th January 2026
Spring Half Term	Friday 13th February 2026	Monday 23rd February 2026
Spring Break	Wednesday 1st April 2026	Monday 20th April 2026
May Day Weekend	Friday 1st May 2026	Tuesday 5th May 2026
Summer Half Term	Friday 22nd May 2026	Tuesday 2nd June 2026
Summer	Wednesday 22nd July 2026	

Inset Days 2025/2026

Monday 1st September 2025 Friday 19th December 2025
 Tuesday 2nd September 2025 Monday 1st June 2026
 Monday 3rd November 2025

Dream, Believe, Learn, Achieve

Holiday Dates 2026/2027



HOLIDAY PERIOD	DATE OF CLOSING	DATE OF RE-OPENING
Autumn Term		Wednesday 2nd September 2026
Autumn Half Term	Friday 23rd October 2026	Tuesday 3rd November 2026
Christmas	Friday 18th December 2026	Tuesday 5th January 2027
Spring Half Term	Friday 12th February 2027	Monday 22nd February 2027
Spring Break	Thursday 25th March 2027	Monday 12th April 2027
May Day Weekend	Closed: Monday 3rd May 2027	
Summer Half Term	Friday 28th May 2027	Monday 7th June 2027
Summer	Friday 16th July 2027	

Inset Days 2026/2027

Tuesday 1st September 2026 Tuesday 20th July 2027
 Monday 2nd November 2026 Wednesday 21st July 2027
 Monday 19th July 2027

Dream, Believe, Learn, Achieve