

Weekly Bulletin no.1256

# Friday 6th February 2026



## Valentine Discos — book now on ParentPay!

We would like to say a massive well done to our **Year 6 Hockey team** after winning Monday's Hockey tournament! They will now progress to the Finals Day at Weaverham High School after half term!

Parents'/ Carers' evening will be going live on **Monday 9th February**. Please book early to get the time that you want. This is the link for booking:

[SchoolCloud - Darnhall Primary School](#)

If you want your child to have a **pancake on Friday 13th February**, you must order and pay on ParentPay before 3pm Tuesday 10th February. We can NOT give out pancakes if you have not paid as this is also permission. Allergies will be catered for.

It is important you check if your child(ren) are eligible for **free school meals** as this allows many benefits for example the holiday clubs, meal vouchers, subsidy on some trips. Don't miss out if eligible. Please check today.

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/free-school-meals>

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.



### Wednesday

#### 11th 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  
School Closes for half



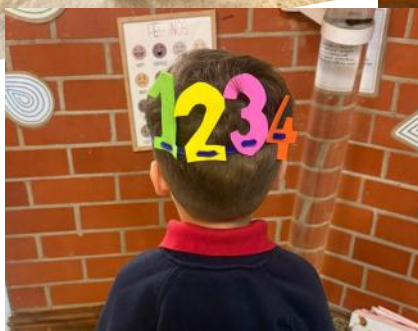
# Other Darnhall News



It was great having the Cheshire Education Library Van in school this week. Our children loved picking out some new books for the classrooms



## NSPCC Number Day 2026





# 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**





# Children's Mental Health Week



Children's Mental Health Week is just around the corner (9th-15th February 2026), and this year's theme is:

**'This is My Place.'**

A sense of belonging in school can act as a buffer against anxiety, stress and loneliness - helping children with self-esteem, resilience and their ability to set and achieve goals in school.



We invite children and their families to create a poster about belonging.

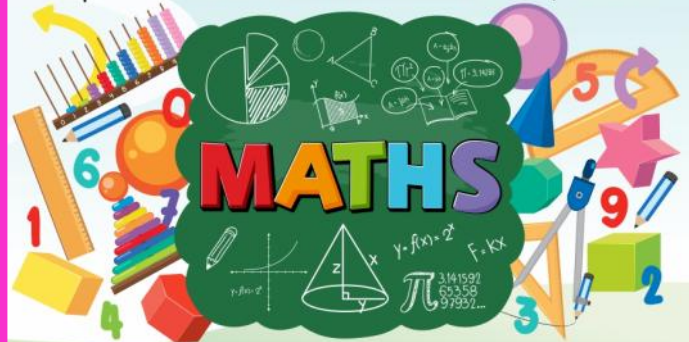


**Closing Date**  
**12th February 2026.**



# Help Your Child with Maths

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



**Date: Wednesday 11th February 2026**

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

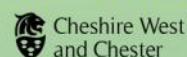
**Tutor: Nina Hallmark**

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.



**Places can be booked via ParentPay**



**Skills and Employment Service**

# 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.**

Dear Parents and Carers of Dragonfly and Butterfly Classes



We are delighted to invite you to attend a **Creative Junk Modelling Session** with your child/children.



This will be a fun, hands-on session where you and your child can work together to create models using recycled and reusable materials. It's a lovely opportunity to be creative, spend time together, and enjoy learning through play.

**Session details: Location: KS2 Hall | Time: 2:00pm – 3:10pm**  
**Dates: Friday 27th February 2026, Tuesday 10th March 2026, Monday 16th March 2026**

There will be 15 places available per session, so booking is essential. Places should be booked via ParentPay, and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.



We hope as many of you as possible are able to join us and look forward to welcoming you to this creative event.



Please could we request that you collect any packaging or recycling and bring it into school at your earliest convenience to help resource this event.



This is available to book on ParentPay and must be booked and paid for by Wednesday 11th February. Children cannot bring their own snacks to the disco due to allergy control measures. We have an extensive tuck shop that caters for allergies.

*Thank you*

# 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

## Squirrel Class

who had a fantastic attendance  
this week of **98.6%**



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](mailto: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](mailto:contact@darnhall.cheshire.sch.uk)

Website: [www.darnhall.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.darnhall.cheshire.sch.uk) | Facebook: [www.facebook.com/DarnhallPrimarySchool](https://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!

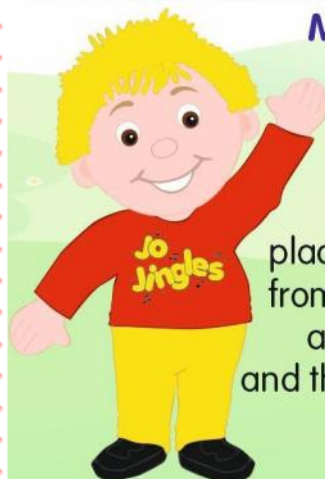


Toddler  
Groups  
At  
Darnhall  
Primary

**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



# 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
<b>Autumn Term</b>		Wednesday 3rd September 2025
<b>Autumn Half Term</b>	Friday 24th October 2025	Tuesday 4th November 2025
<b>Christmas</b>	Thursday 18th December 2025	Monday 5th January 2026
<b>Spring Half Term</b>	Friday 13th February 2026	Monday 23rd February 2026
<b>Spring Break</b>	Wednesday 1st April 2026	Monday 20th April 2026
<b>May Day Weekend</b>	Friday 1st May 2026	Tuesday 5th May 2026
<b>Summer Half Term</b>	Friday 22nd May 2026	Tuesday 2nd June 2026
<b>Summer</b>	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
<b>Autumn Term</b>		Wednesday 2nd September 2026
<b>Autumn Half Term</b>	Friday 23rd October 2026	Tuesday 3rd November 2026
<b>Christmas</b>	Friday 18th December 2026	Tuesday 5th January 2027
<b>Spring Half Term</b>	Friday 12th February 2027	Monday 22nd February 2027
<b>Spring Break</b>	Thursday 25th March 2027	Monday 12th April 2027
<b>May Day Weekend</b>	Closed: Monday 3rd May 2027	
<b>Summer Half Term</b>	Friday 28th May 2027	Monday 7th June 2027
<b>Summer</b>	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**