

Weekly Bulletin no.129

Friday 13th March 2026



We have had a lovely week and we are all looking forward to our **Easter** activities. On April 1st, we will be having an **Easter** themed lunch. On ParentPay you can choose from either Easter Sausage Nest or Fishes & Loaves. Next week is **Red Nose Day**. Children can come in wearing silly clothes. Donations are being collected on the day. Thank you very much to parents and carers that came along to the second of our **Creative Junk Modelling and the Cooking on a Budget** workshops. The children had a fabulous time creating models and pizzas with their parent/carer.

There have been a lot of cars parking on the yellow zig-zag lines. Please don't. This is extremely dangerous for pedestrians and road users.

It is important that 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 etc. Don't miss out if eligible. Please check today. <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/free-school-meals>. Send us a screenshot of your application and we will put you into a prize draw for £50 voucher.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY!

Achievement is directly linked to attendance and punctuality.

Children with high levels of attendance make better progress and succeed in school.

Every Minute Counts!

Lateness = Lost Learning Time
Over one academic year

Minutes Late	Days Lost
5	5
6.5	6.5
10	10
15	15
20	20
25	25

- ✓ Pack your school bag the night before
- ✓ Hang up/set out your uniform items
- ✓ Set your alarm
- ✓ Arrive at Darnhall Nursery and Primary School by 8.30am each day!

Monday 16th March

Creative Junk Modelling
Reception Children

Friday 20th March

Red Nose Day

Monday / Tuesday 23rd/ 24th March

Parents' and Carers' Evening

Monday 30th March

Easter Bingo

Tuesday 31st March

Nursery Stay and Play

Wednesday 1st April

School Closes

Monday 20th April

School Re-Opens

Science Fair!
For Parents and Carers

Tuesday 17th March
3.15pm – 3.45pm in the KS1 Hall

Come and see the fantastic work your child has produced during **Science Week**.
Everyone welcome!

Easter Holiday Activities



Here are the activities we are offering over Easter (HAF funded).

Places have to be offered to pupils on pupil premium first.
Places must be booked via our booking system.

Thursday 9th April
Art
9:00am- 1:00pm

Friday 10th April
Polar Palace Trip
9:30am- 1:00pm
This trip is just for children

Monday 13th April
Sports Coaching
9:00am- 1:00pm

Tuesday 14th April
Gaming
9:00am- 1:00pm



Nursery Stay & Play

Easter themed egg hunt stay and play

Tuesday 31st March 2026

AM children 10:30am-11:15am

PM children 2:15pm-3:00pm

One special person to attend the session. No younger siblings can attend due to limited space.



Drop in session with the Early Help Navigators

Tuesday 5th May
Tuesday 7th July

8:30 - 10:00am in the KS2 Building

The Early Help Navigators
can support with:

- DLA forms
- Benefit checkers
- Toilet training
- Pre-school speech and language
- Baby development
- Healthy meals
- Debt support
- Housing
- Parental mental health
- Food bank and baby bank referrals

If you cannot make the session
and would like to contact the Early Help
Navigators for support, please contact
our Family Support Team via
familysupport@damhall.cheshire.sch.uk
who will provide you with the
direct booking details.

Treats and coffee available.



Red Nose Day is back on Friday 20th March 2026!

COMIC
RELIEF

RED
NOSE
DAY

Do something funny for
money!

Children can come to
school in their own clothes
and are invited to wear
something silly.

Classes will be holding joke
contests on the day.



Please send your child in with
50p to wear something silly
and 50p if they would like to
enter the joke contest.



Nursery and Reception Classes
will be taking part in a sponsored
event in aid of **St Luke's Hospice!**

Leaping Lambs

Thursday 26th March 2026



Sponsorship Envelopes will be sent home nearer the time and we
ask that all money is returned to school by
Monday 30th March 2026

Thanks for
supporting this
wonderful cause.



Unfortunately from the beginning of Summer Term 2026 , there will be a School Lunch price increase, the cost of a lunch will be £3.25. If you believe you may be entitled to Free School Meals, we would encourage you to apply via Cheshire West and Chester council. If you need help in doing so please contact the office.

School Lunches

All children, from Reception to Year 2, are entitled to a free school meal each day under the Universal Free School Meal scheme.

The cost of a school meal for children in Key Stage 2 is **£3.25 a day** or **£16.25 a week**. All dinner money is paid via our ParentPay system.

Free School Meals

If your child is in any year group and you think that they are entitled to benefit related free school meals, you will need to apply via the Cheshire West website:

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/school-meals.aspx

If you have difficulties claiming online, please email: benefits@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or call: 0300 123 7021 to discuss making a telephone or paper application.

If you think that your child qualifies for free school meals, please apply for this - even if your child is in Reception or Key Stage 1.

By claiming this benefit, the school will then receive additional funding called Pupil Premium which as a school we will use to help support your child to achieve their full potential.



Dream, Believe, Learn, Achieve

A big well done to this week's
attendance winners

Hedgehog Class

who had a fantastic attendance
this week of **97.4%**



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™

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



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



Explore Nature, Art, Science
and Technology across
West Cheshire Museums at
Museum Explorers club!
Come and make some
exciting discoveries with
us this Spring!

Victorian Toys: 8th April
Aboriginal Art: 15th April
11am-12pm & 12pm-1pm

Outstanding Owls: 9th April
Art Discover Day: 16th April
11am-12pm & 12pm-1pm



Weaver Hall
Museum & Workhouse



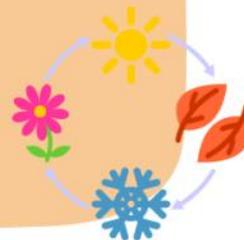
**Grosvenor
Museum**



Eggy Experiments: 10th April
Investigating Seasons: 17th April
11am-12pm & 12pm-1pm



**Lion Salt
Works**



Booking necessary, £5 per session. To book, pop in to see us or call:

Weaver Hall Museum: 01606 271646

Lion Salt Works: 01606 275066

Grosvenor Museum: 01244 972197

CHILDRENS FREE
CRAFTS

THIS SPRING BREAK!



**Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th - Owl Masks @ Grosvenor
Museum, Chester**

**Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th - Easter baskets @ Lion Salt
Works, Northwich**

**Thursday 9th & Friday 10th - Miniature hobby horse @ Weaver
Hall Museum & Workhouse, Northwich**

CHILDRENS FREE

CRAFTS

THIS SPRING BREAK!



**Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th - Story Cubes @ Grosvenor
Museum, Chester**

**Wednesday 15th & Thursday 16th - Rainbows @ Lion Salt
Works, Northwich**

**Thursday 16th & Friday 17th - Spring wreaths @ Weaver Hall
Museum & Workhouse, Northwich**