

# Weekly Bulletin no.130

## Friday 20th March 2026



It's been a super week at Darnhall and we have lots of events leading up to the end of term. Next week is **Parents'/Carers' evening**, if you have yet to book an appointment and need help please phone school and we will help you to book. The tickets for the **Easter** Bingo are now on sale. Join us on Monday 30th March for a fab evening and a chance to win some amazing prizes. On April 1st, we will be having an **Easter** themed lunch. On ParentPay you can choose from either Easter Sausage Nest or Fishes & Loaves.

### Support for families continues

The Government's Household Support Fund will end on 31 March 2026 and will be replaced by a new Crisis and Resilience Fund from 1 April 2026. Support for residents experiencing financial hardship will continue. You do not need to take any action at this stage. More information will be shared soon. If you need help now, you can find support, advice, and support.

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/benefits-and-welfare-help/cost-of-living/crisis-and-resilience-fund>

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO HOME HUB ON THE LAST DAY OF TERM**

**—1st April 2026**

## You have to be in to win!



For **every day** that a pupil is in **AND** on time until the end of term, their name will go into the draw.

The more weeks that they achieve 100% weekly attendance the more chances they have to win one of five fan-dabi-dози prizes.

**In with a chance to win one of our fantastic Easter Prizes**

Winners will be drawn before we break up at Easter.

**Prizes also for most improved**



### Monday / Tuesday 23rd/ 24th March

Parents' and Carers' Evening

### Friday 27th March

**Non Uniform Day for Easter Bingo**

Donations—Easter Eggs (no mini eggs)

### Monday 30th March

**Easter Bingo (Tickets**

Doors open 4.45pm

### Monday 30th March

Easter Bingo

### Tuesday 31st March

Nursery Stay and Play

### Wednesday 1st April

Family Easter Assemblies

### Wednesday 1st April

School Closes at Normal Time

## 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](mailto:familysupport@damhall.cheshire.sch.uk)  
who will provide you with the  
direct booking details.

Treats and coffee available.



## 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

Hot meals  
on offer



## 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.



# Knitted Easter Crafts with a Creme egg

On sale from

**Monday 16th March**

Suggested donation of £3 each.

Sold in aid of St Luke's Hospice  
(Send in correct money in a name  
labelled envelope)

**Allergens: Milk and Egg**



Nursery, Reception and Year 1 and  
Year 2 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](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/school-meals.aspx)

If you have difficulties claiming online, please email: [benefits@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto: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

## Beaver Class

who had a fantastic attendance  
this week of **99.3%**



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™

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
<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**



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: 8<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Aboriginal Art: 15<sup>th</sup> April**  
11am-12pm & 12pm-1pm

**Outstanding Owls: 9<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Art Discover Day: 16<sup>th</sup> April**  
11am-12pm & 12pm-1pm



**Weaver Hall**  
Museum & Workhouse



**Grosvenor  
Museum**



**Eggy Experiments: 10<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Investigating Seasons: 17<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> - Owl Masks @ Grosvenor  
Museum, Chester**

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

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

CHILDRENS FREE

# CRAFTS

THIS SPRING BREAK!



**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> - Story Cubes @ Grosvenor  
Museum, Chester**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> - Rainbows @ Lion Salt  
Works, Northwich**

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