



Northfield News

25th September 2026

A Message from Mrs Woolhouse

It has been a absolute pleasure watching the school come alive again over these past few weeks!

We have had an excellent start to the term, and I have been so impressed by how quickly and smoothly all of the children have settled into their new classes. A very special welcome goes to our new Reception children, who have taken the step into school life with fantastic confidence and big smiles—they are already firm members of our school family!

Across all year groups, the children are adapting brilliantly to their new routines. There is a wonderfully calm, focused atmosphere throughout the building, perfectly balanced with plenty of fun and high-energy learning happening every day. It has also been great to see the children enjoying their time in 'The Den', exploring the space and making the most of the activities on offer.

On a personal note, it has been lovely to chat with so many of our parents and families over the last couple of weeks. Partnership with our families is at the heart of everything we do. As always, I am keen to hear your views, listen to your ideas, and help with any concerns you may have, so please never hesitate to approach me or catch me for a quick chat.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school community such a warm and vibrant place to learn.



Information and Notices

Photographs

Individual School Photographs

Wrates Photographers will be visiting the school on **Monday 28th September** to take individual photographs of all pupils. These photographs are used internally on our Arbor Management Information System and are not published elsewhere. Following photo day, you will receive a link enabling you to purchase copies for personal use.

- **Uniform Reminder:** All children must come to school wearing their **usual school uniform** on Monday 28th September, even if it is normally their PE day.



New School Starter Photographs: Ladybirds & Butterflies

On **Thursday 1st October**, a photographer from the *Driffield & Wolds Weekly* newspaper will be visiting to take photos of our Ladybirds and Butterflies classes. These will feature in the newspaper's New School Starter supplement on Tuesday 20th October. Please ensure you have completed and returned your child's photography consent form prior to Thursday 1st October so they can be included.

Important Safety Notice: Morning Drop-Off & Playground Procedures

It has come to our attention that the playground is becoming very busy during morning drop-off, particularly with groups gathering at the top of the steps. To ensure the safety of all our children, staff, and families, we kindly ask for your help with the following routines:

- **Keep Clear Zones:** Please keep the area at the top of the steps and the side door to the Dragonflies classroom clear at all times so children can pass through safely and without obstruction.
- **Class Lines:** When teachers come out to collect their classes, children should line up as usual. We ask that parents and carers stand clear of these lines so staff can guide the children safely into the building.
- **Speaking with Staff:** If you need to speak with a teacher or member of staff, they will be very happy to chat with you once all the children have safely gone inside to the cloakrooms.



Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our mornings safe and running smoothly for everyone.



Breakfast Club Bookings

PE Active Uniform

Please remember to book your child's place for Breakfast Club as early as possible, as these sessions are becoming increasingly busy.

We currently have **30 spaces** available per session, and places are filling up completely on certain mornings. To avoid disappointment and help us manage numbers safely, please ensure you reserve your spot in advance.

The children have been coming into school looking very smart in their active uniforms—thank you to everyone for sending them in the required kit!

As a reminder, here are the days your child should come to school in their active uniform:

- **Butterflies & Ladybirds:** Friday
- **Bumblebees & Caterpillars:** Tuesday and Thursday
- **Dragonflies & Grasshoppers:** Monday and Thursday

Please note that **ALL children should come to school in their usual school uniform on Monday 28th September** for individual photographs, regardless of whether it is normally their PE day.

School Bags & Cloakroom Space

To help keep our cloakrooms tidy, safe, and easy for the children to manage, we kindly ask that pupils bring only a **standard school book bag** into school each day. Book bags fit neatly into the children's individual drawers and help us make the most of our limited space.

We understand that on certain days, additional items may need to come into school. On these occasions, please ensure any extra belongings are brought in a **small, compact bag**, as space in our cloakroom areas is very restricted.

Thank you for your support and understanding in helping us keep our cloakrooms organised and accessible for all the children!



Healthy Screen Time & Digital Balance

A Parent's Guide

Healthy minds, happy children, brighter futures

Simple advice, practical ideas and fun activities to help your child get the right balance with screens – and make time for real life!



1 Why Getting the Balance Right Matters

Early brain development relies on real-world interactions, physical movement and rest. While digital media offers educational tools, excessive or solo screen use can impact attention, language skills and sleep quality.



Brain Development

Over 90% of brain growth happens before age 5.



School Readiness

Hands-on experiences build motor skills and turn-taking – not just screen tapping or swiping.



Health & Sleep

Screen light before bed suppresses melatonin, disrupting deep sleep cycles vital for learning and wellbeing.

2 Official DfE & Expert Guidance by Age Group

Age Group	Recommended Screen Limits	Key Focus & Tips
Under 2 Years	Avoid solo screen time	Use digital tools only for shared video calls with family to build bonding, vocabulary and direct interaction.
Ages 2 to 5 Years	Max 1 hour per day (recreational)	Pick slow-paced, calm, educational programming. Avoid rapid social-media-style clips or AI-driven feeds. Avoid during mealtimes and 1 hour before bed.
Ages 5 to 7 Years (KS1)	1 to 1.5 hours per day (recreational)	Set clear daily boundaries. Balance screen use with outdoor play, sports, reading and creative activities. Ensure games are age-rated (PEGI) and password-protected.

3 The 5 Golden Rules for Healthy Screen Use at Home

- Screen-Free Zones & Times**
Keep screens away from mealtimes and turn off all devices at least 1 hour before bedtime.
- Practice "Co-Viewing"**
Watch or play together! Ask your child questions to turn passive viewing into active learning.
- Try "Screen Swaps"**
Replace 20 minutes of tablet time with reading, a board game or outdoor active play.
- Avoid Background TV**
It distracts children during independent play and reduces parent-child dialogue.
- Lead by Example**
Children mirror adult behaviour. Put your phone away during family meals and playtime.

4 Fun, Low-Cost Screen-Free Activities (Ages 5–7)

Creative Building & Pretend Play

- Living Room Blanket Fort** – create a secret cave or castle with chairs, cushions and sheets. Add a torch, pillows and books.
- Cardboard Box City** – turn boxes into houses, fire stations or rockets using markers, scissors and tape.
- DIY Shadow Theater** – use a sheet or box, a lamp and paper cut-outs for a puppet show.



Low-Mess Arts & Crafts

- Paper Plate Animals** – use crayons, glue and scrap paper to make lions, fish or target games.
- Homemade Playdough** – mix 2 cups of flour, 1/2 cup of salt, 2 tbsp vegetable oil and 1 cup of warm water.
- Nature Rubbings & Collage** – collect leaves, twigs and bark, place paper over them and rub with a crayon to reveal textures.



Active & Problem-Solving Games

- Indoor Treasure Hunt** – 5–8 clue cards to find a treat or puzzle piece.
- Masking Tape Obstacle Course** – zig-zags, hopscotch and more. Challenge them to move without touching the floor.
- The "Floor is Lava" Challenge** – use cushions, towels and trays to navigate the room.
- Kitchen Band & Pattern Games** – use spoons, and containers to make rhythms. Play "copycat".



5 Quick 10-Minute Transition Games (To Avoid Screen Battles)

Transitions are tough for 5-to-7-year-olds because switching off a screen causes a sudden drop in dopamine. Try these 10-minute games to ease the change:



Would You Rather? – fun, silly questions to spark conversation.



Quick Puzzle – 10 minutes to complete a jigsaw or brain teaser.



Simon Says – get moving and laughing!



Gratitude Circle – share one good thing from the day.

Small changes make a big difference!

Thank you for supporting a healthy digital balance at Drifffield Northfield Infant School. ♥



DRIFFIELD NORTHFIELD INFANT SCHOOL

Welcomes you to our
Open Evening
on Tuesday 6th October
between 4pm and 6pm for
September 2027
New School Starters



Come and meet Team Northfield and see our
newly developed outdoor area and The Den
our new nurture-for-all room

- ✓ A friendly, family focused and caring team of highly qualified staff
- ✓ Well resourced and developed learning environments both indoors and outdoors
- ✓ Popular Breakfast and After-school clubs, run by familiar, caring school staff
- ✓ Effective transition into school from the pre-schools including visits and stay and play sessions.

"Driffield Northfield Infant School is a warm and welcoming school in the heart of its community. Pupils flourish because of the care and nurturing they receive." (Ofsted 24)

Visit our website at www.driffieldnorthfieldinfants.co.uk or call **01377 257487** for more information or to arrange a visit.



Annual Happiness Day & Rainbow Walk: Friday 23rd October

We are excited to announce that **Friday 23rd October** will be our annual Happiness Day! Each year, we spend this day doing all the activities that make us happiest, finishing the afternoon with our sponsored **Rainbow Walk** around the school grounds.

- **What to Wear:** We ask that all children come to school wearing brightly coloured clothes and bringing their biggest smiles!
- **Sponsorship:** Further details regarding sponsorship for the Rainbow Walk will be sent out shortly.



Whole School Pantomime Visit: Cinderella!

We are thrilled to announce that the whole school will be visiting **Bridlington Spa on Friday 18th December** to watch this year's pantomime, *Cinderella*!



It promises to be a wonderful festive treat for all the children. Further details regarding timings, transport, and arrangements will be sent out at a later date.

Lunchtime Menus

[Click here](#) to see a copy of the current 3 week menu cycle. These menus run through to October Half Term.

Food Safety, Healthy Lunches, and Hydration

As a healthy school, we encourage nutritious balanced packed lunches to help keep our children energised and focused throughout the day. However, we must ensure that our food policies keep every child safe, so please note the following essential guidelines:

- **Strictly No Nuts:** We have children in school with severe, life-threatening nut allergies. Please ensure that no nuts, peanut butter, or products containing nuts are brought into school under

any circumstances.

- **Choking Risk Awareness:** For our infant-aged children, certain items pose a high choking risk. Please take extra care when preparing lunches: **all grapes must be sliced lengthways in half**, and cocktail sausages or cherry tomatoes should also be cut appropriately before being sent into school.
- **Water Bottles:** We ask that children bring water to drink in their school water bottles. Please ensure the bottles are not too large or heavy so that our young children can handle them independently and they can easily fit into our school water bottle carriers. For health and hygiene, please remember that bottles must be taken home, thoroughly washed, and refilled with fresh water every day.



Dates For Your Diary

Event Information

Individual School Photographs

When?

Monday, 28 Sept 2026, 09:00 am

Event Information

Parents Evening

Meet your child's new teacher and discuss how they are settling into their new class. Information about booking an appointment will be sent out in September.

When?

Monday, 28 Sept 2026, 03:30 pm

Event Information

Parents Evening

Meet your child's new teacher and discuss how they are settling into their new class. Information about booking an appointment will be sent out in September.

When?

Tuesday, 29 Sept 2026, 03:30 pm

Event Information

New Starter Class Photographs (Reception)

When?

Thursday, 1 Oct 2026, 09:00 am

Event Information

Family Help Schools and Community Practitioner Drop In Session

Come along and have a chat with our Family Help Schools and Community Practitioner between 9am and 10,30am. These sessions can help with making family life a little easier including understanding your child's behaviour and signposting to services to help with specific concerns.

When?

Tuesday, 6 Oct 2026, 09:00 am

Event Information

Prospective New Starters Open Evening

Do you have or know someone with a child due to start school in September 2027? If so come along between 4pm and 6pm to visit our school to see why this is the perfect place for your child to start their school adventures!

When?

Tuesday, 6 Oct 2026, 04:00 pm

Event Information

Year1 & 2 Cross Country @ Driffield Junior School

Details for registration to follow

When?

Saturday, 10 Oct 2026, 10:00 am

Event Information

Skip2BFit Workshops

All classes will take part during the day. All children should come to school in their Active Uniform (PE kit) please.

When?

Wednesday, 14 Oct 2026, 08:45 am

Event Information

Flu Vaccinations

NHS staff will visit school to administer flu vaccinations for the children. Further information and consent forms will be sent out in the Autumn term.

When?

Thursday, 15 Oct 2026, 09:00 am

Event Information

Y2 @ Driffield Junior School for Multi Sports

Further information to follow. All Y2 children to wear Active Uniform (PE kit)

When?

Friday, 16 Oct 2026, 09:30 am

Event Information

Harvest Festival

When?

Monday, 19 Oct 2026, 09:00 am

Event Information

Harvest Festival

When?

Monday, 19 Oct 2026, 02:30 pm

Event Information

Harvest Festival

When?

Tuesday, 20 Oct 2026, 02:30 pm

Event Information

Autumn Disco

See above for details

When?

Thursday, 22 Oct 2026, 03:00 pm

Event Information

Happiness Day and Rainbow Walk

The day will be spent doing all our favourite things and appreciating what makes us happy. We will also have our annual sponsored Rainbow Walk. More details will be sent out in the Autumn term.

When?

Friday, 23 Oct 2026, 08:45 am

Event Information

End of Half Term

When?

Friday, 23 Oct 2026, 03:15 pm

Event Information

Return to School

When?

Monday, 2 Nov 2026, 08:45 am

Event Information

Non-uniform Day for the Christmas Bingo

Children should come to school in non-uniform/sparkles and bring also a donation of chocolate or wine for prizes at the Christmas Bingo event.

When?

Thursday, 5 Nov 2026, 08:45 am

Event Information

Family Help Schools and Community Practitioner Drop In Session

Come along and have a chat with our Family Help Schools and Community Practitioner between 9am and 10,30am. These sessions can help with making family life a little easier including understanding your child's behaviour and signposting to services to help with specific concerns.

When?

Tuesday, 3 Nov 2026, 09:00 am

Event Information

Christmas Bingo

Details to follow

When?

Friday, 20 Nov 2026, 05:30 pm

School Term Dates 2026/27 & Attendance Reminders

Please find below our calendar of term dates for the upcoming 2026/27 academic year to help you plan your family breaks. We want to remind parents that, in line with government regulations, term-time holidays cannot be authorised by the school. Unauthorised absences may have to be referred to the Local Authority, which can result in a fixed penalty notice fine.

Consistent attendance and excellent punctuality are absolutely vital for our young learners. Arriving on time and being at school every day ensures children don't miss out on crucial early learning, helping them make great academic progress. Beyond their lessons, steady routines heavily support your child's emotional wellbeing, helping them settle into their friendships and build classroom confidence. We understand that mornings can sometimes be challenging, so please remember that we are always here to help. If you are experiencing any issues regarding attendance or getting to school on time, please reach out to us so we can support you.

SCHOOL TERM DATES – STANDARD PATTERN OF DATES 2026 - 2027 ACADEMIC YEAR

AUTUMN TERM 2026																											
	August						September					October				November					December						
Monday		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28
Tuesday		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29
Wednesday		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30
Thursday		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31
Friday		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27	

SPRING TERM 2027																											
	January					February					March					April											
Monday		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26								
Tuesday		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27								
Wednesday		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28								
Thursday		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29								
Friday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30								
Saturday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24									
Sunday	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25									

Autumn	35	70	195
	35		
Spring	25		
	25		
Summer	39		
	36		
School Holiday			
Bank Holiday			

SUMMER TERM 2027																											
	May					June					July																
Monday		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26											
Tuesday		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27											
Wednesday		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28											
Thursday		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29											
Friday		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30											
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31											
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25												

These term dates are for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in East Riding of Yorkshire.

Schools can set five non-contact days when the school will be closed to pupils.



Driffeld Northfield Infant School

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