

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to school. It does seem a long while ago now, but I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas break and were able to spend some quality time with your loved ones. On behalf of all staff, a huge 'Thank You' to the children and parents who brought Christmas cards and gifts at the end of last term. We all really appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity, especially at such a busy and costly time of year.



Since the beginning of term we have seen rising Covid cases across the school. We are putting in the following additional measures to try to reduce the spread of the virus amongst children and staff:

- Separate phase morning playtimes to reduce contacts
- Phases seated separately in the hall at lunch to reduce contacts
- Golden Time in class
- Assemblies in class



Each classroom now has a CO2 monitor provided by the government- windows and doors will be regularly opened in classrooms to purge the air. We encourage children to wear extra layers underneath their uniform and bring their coats to school daily.

These measures alongside, regular handwashing and cleaning in school will help to reduce Covid related absence and to keep the school open during this challenging time.

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.



The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#). If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

If your child tests positive on an LFD and has no symptoms they now do not need to take a follow up PCR test and should isolate for 5 full days. We will continue to inform you of any positive cases in your child's class as soon as we know about them so that any close contacts, can take an LFD test every day for 5 full days and are able to continue to attend school as normal. If your child develops symptoms during the 5 days they should still book a PCR and isolate until you have the results.

If a member of your household tests positive, please test everyone in your house even if they have no symptoms. Please only send children into school if they have a negative test result if others in your house have Covid.



***We ask that children and parents test regularly at home with LFD tests. Thank you for your support in keeping our school community safe.***

### **Relationships and Sex Education Policy**

All primary schools in England must teach Relationships and Health Education but there is no legal requirement for primary schools to teach sex education. At Donisthorpe, we have always taught some elements of sex education as part of our Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education curriculum (PSHE) as we believe that this knowledge is important to help children deal with different experiences and to prepare them for the next stage of their education and ultimately for adult life.

We have recently invested in a new PSHE resource for teachers to use in class with updated, more modern materials to further enhance our teaching. The lessons have been carefully planned within the PSHE curriculum to be age appropriate and to ensure that they fulfil the statutory requirements for Relationships and Health Education set out by the Department for Education. The scheme also gives the children the opportunity to revisit topics in different year groups as they mature and very much fits with the way in which we already teach.

The lessons are divided up into three overarching themes, spaced throughout the year:

- Families and relationships
- Health and wellbeing
- Safety and the changing body

Children are given the opportunity to increase their knowledge and understanding and to explore their feelings and ideas, whilst listening to the views of other people. The overall aim is for children to be able to make informed choices and decisions as they grow. The detail of what we teach is set out in our Relationships and Sex Education Policy, which is available on our website.

<http://www.donisthorpeprimary.org/policies.html>



### **Young Voices**

Unfortunately, the Young Voices concert, planned for January 26<sup>th</sup> has been postponed. We will notify you of the rescheduled date when we have it.

### **End of Key Stage SATS**

SATs week for our current Year 6 children will take place in the week beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022. National testing for Year 2 children will take place during the month of May 2022. We will be sharing information regarding testing arrangements for Year 6 and Year 2 later on in the school year.

### **Wales Residential**

Our Year 6 children will be going to Wales on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022 for a week long adventure! There will be a short meeting for parents via Zoom on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 6.00pm.

## **Parents Evening**

Parents evening this term will take place on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February- we were hoping to hold this face to face in school, but due to the ongoing pandemic we feel that this should be held virtually. We will notify you next week when the online booking system is open for you to book an appointment with your child's class teacher. Your child's mid-year report will be sent home on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February.

## **Parent Survey**

As a school we are always looking for ways that we can improve further, please click the link below to complete a short survey about your experiences at our school.

The questionnaire will be open for responses until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January, thank you in advance for your feedback. <https://forms.office.com/r/yBM4jhL5LM>

## **Are you entitled to free afterschool clubs, school trips, milk and school lunches?**

Children of families in receipt of certain benefits may be eligible for additional funding – Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) - which we can use to provide free clubs, trips, milk and lunches for your child. Even if you don't wish to take advantage of any of these, school can still claim much-needed funding for those who are eligible. Under current rules the funding lasts for 6 years, even if your circumstances change in that time. If you have not already applied, or if your circumstances have changed recently, we would encourage you to check eligibility and apply online. Please contact the school office for more details.

## **Contact Information**

Have you had a new phone recently and your mobile has changed? Please, remember to regularly update the school office in writing if there are any changes to the contact details we have on record for your child, including people on your contact list who have permission to collect your child from school.

As ever, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards,



Sylvie Newman  
Executive Headteacher