

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another busy few weeks at Donisthorpe! Children have enjoyed after school sports activities- they even managed to dodge this week's rain, Year 6 took part in Forest School at Hicks Lodge, Year 5 explored the school grounds as part of their wild science lesson, Year 3 children have been learning about volcanoes in Geography and EYFS went out on a walk to release their tadpoles into the wild!

This week would have been SATs week for our Y6 pupils, but this year has once again been very different for our oldest pupils. It has been nice for the children not to have been focused on tests in the same way that they would be normally- although we know that this group would have taken them in their stride! We have still got lots of exciting things planned for the Year 6 children this term, even if we may not be able to do all of the things that we would ordinarily be able to, rest assured, there is a lot more to look forward to at Donisthorpe before they move onto secondary school.

DfE Guidance/Covid Road Map

The Government have announced some changes to Covid restrictions for the public from Monday 17th May, however the recent update to the guidance for schools has very little changes to the guidelines that we must follow. This means that we must continue to implement the Covid safety measures as advised both by the Government and by Leicestershire Local Authority, these include:

- Face coverings must be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas).
- Maintaining distinct groups or 'bubbles' that do not mix, whatever the size of the group, they should be kept apart from other groups where possible.
- Children should maintain distance and not touch staff and their peers. (The government acknowledge that younger pupils might find social distancing hard)
- Avoid large whole school gatherings and gatherings of parents.
- Keep movement around the school to a minimum.
- Use staggered break times and lunch times.
- Use staggered starts and finish times to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave.

However, I think that it is important that we take a step towards normality now, for the sake of our children's wellbeing and I believe that we can do this within these updated guidelines.

With this in mind, we will be shortly we combining our classes, to create slightly larger bubbles, EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 children will become a bubble, Year 3 and Year 4 children will become a bubble and Year 5 and Year 6 children will become a bubble. This will allow us to mix the children a bit more outside at playtimes, at lunch and for assemblies- this is an important step for our children as they get used to negotiating and playing alongside other children again in preparation for transition.



Covid cases in our area are currently very low which is why we feel that we can now make this change. In the event of a positive Covid case, the 'class bubble' would still need to isolate- staff would then be asked to identify any close contacts from the other classes within the bubble to reduce numbers of children having to learn remotely.

My continued thanks to you all in supporting the school to implement these guidelines.

In addition to the steps we will be taking within school, in line with updated government guidelines, we have also received a letter, for parents, from the Director of Children and Family Services and the Director of Public Health regarding the wearing of face coverings by parents at school drop off and pick up times. We have sent a copy of this to all parents in a separate email. Please ensure you take the time to read this carefully so we can continue to reduce the risk of transmission for our children, families and wider community.

Congratulations!

Yesterday we were paid a routine visit by North West Leicestershire Environmental Health as part of our school Food Hygiene assessment rating.

Mrs Bate, Mrs Toon, Mrs Spillett and Miss Lakin have continued to work tirelessly to maintain the high quality of food served at lunchtimes and were awarded the highest Food Hygiene rating of 5. Environmental Health were, unsurprisingly, very impressed and congratulated Mrs Bate and her team on their exemplary work. Thank you to all of the team in the kitchen for all of their hard work!



Cycle/Scooter Safety

We are keen for children and parents to cycle to school but please cycle/scoot safely at all times and particularly on the roads close to school. If old enough and if safe to do so, children should cycle on the road not on the pavements. The footpaths alongside the road are busy at drop-off and pick-up times with pedestrians, so please do take care and slow down or dismount if the area is congested.

Break Time Snacks

As a 'Healthy School' we aim to promote healthy eating with the children. All children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with free fruit each day to eat during morning break. A number of children continue to bring in items that are not 'healthy' snacks, such as crisps and chocolate bars to eat at break time. We strongly encourage children to bring fruit as a snack for morning break. We would also encourage children in KS2 to bring fruit as a snack to eat at break time as they do not currently start their lunch break until after 12.30pm.



Whole Class School Photos

The Tempest photographer will be visiting Donisthorpe Primary School on Thursday 20th May to take class photos of the children. The children will remain in their class bubbles and Government and Leicestershire Local authority Covid safety measures will be implemented at all times. Children in Year 3 and Year 4 will need to come to school wearing their school uniform and bring their outdoor PE kit with them to change into.



The Big Ask Survey

The Big Ask Survey, launched by Dame Rachel de Souza, runs until the 28th May. This is a national survey for children that is aimed at hearing from young people about the things that make them happy, that worry them and that they would like to see in the future. All of your children's answers will be confidential and they do not need to answer all of the questions if they do not want to. Their answers will be used to inform the Government of the changes that children would like to see. If you would like your child to complete the survey, please click this link! <http://www.thebigask.uk/>



PE kits

As you know during the Covid pandemic, the children have been wearing their PE kits at school on the day that they have PE. This has been really beneficial to the children, they have been able to participate in more physical activity at school because they have not had to use time in the lesson to change into and out of their PE kit and much less time has been spent looking for lost kit or uniform!

From September 2021 we will continue to ask the children to wear their outdoor PE kit to school on outdoor PE days (Indoor PE kit can still be kept in school and changed into.)

This will be one of our 'Covid keepers' i.e. one of the changes that we have had to make in school because of Covid, but has actually benefited the children.

As the children will be in their PE kits all day, we will be enforcing the correct PE uniform- so remember that track suits should be **BLUE** or **BLACK ONLY**. We will continue to send out reminders about this change so that parents can factor this in when purchasing uniform for the new academic year.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Regards,



Sylvie Newman,
Executive Headteacher

Diary Dates		
Friday 28th May	School closed for half term	
Monday 7th June	School reopens	
Friday 9th July	School closed for Summer holidays	
Wednesday 25th August	School reopens for Autumn Term	
Monday 30th August	School closed for Bank Holiday	

Forest School Dates		
Wednesday 19th May	Year 2	All Day
Wednesday 26th May	Year 3	All Day
Wednesday 9th June	Year 4	All Day
Thursday 17th June	Year 5	All Day
Tuesday 22nd June	Year 6	All Day

EYFS and Year 1 Forest School		
Year 1	Every Friday (Last session is on Friday 25 th June)	AM
EYFS	Every Friday (Last session is on Friday 25 th June)	PM

Multi Sports Clubs		
Monday	Year 4	3.10pm to 4.00pm
Tuesday	Year 2	3.10pm to 4.00pm
Wednesday	Year 5	3.10pm to 4.00pm
Thursday	Year 3	3.10pm to 4.00pm
Clubs this half term will run until Friday 28th May		

