

Dear Parents and Carers,



We are now four weeks into the new term and the children have all settled so well. Our new foundation children are enjoying coming to school and are already busy with their 'learning jobs' in the classroom!

New EYFS parents (2022 intake) Open Evening

Do you have a child who is due to start school in September 2022? Choosing your child's school is an important decision. This evening is aimed at giving new parents as much information as possible in order to help them make the right decision. Our Open Evening will take place on **Thursday 28th October 2021 at 6.30pm**. There will be a short presentation followed by a chance to tour our amazing EYFS base and talk informally to staff. We will be advertising this event locally, but if you or someone you know is interested in attending, they can book a place by contacting the school office.

Harvest Festival 2021

We were hoping that we would be able to join together to celebrate harvest this year, but there are still a high number of positive Covid cases in the area and within school so we are taking a cautious approach. We will be recording and sharing our service via social media. We will be collecting tinned goods, dried foods and other non-perishables to donate to the Marlene Reid Centre. Donations should be brought to school at the beginning of the day on Wednesday 6th October.



Parents Evening

This year parents evening will take place on Tuesday 12th October and Thursday 14th October. Unfortunately, we feel that with Covid cases as they are a face to face parents evening is not possible so we will be running this one via Zoom as we have done for the last year. We hope to be able to plan in an open afternoon for you to come into school to look at books after half term- we will keep you posted on this. You will be sent information next week on how to book your appointment.



Lost Property

The mountain of lost property in school seems to be growing even though the children have only been in school for a short time! Please, please name children's uniform. There will be a much greater chance of getting it back should it be misplaced – named uniform also makes a big difference to teachers!

Apply for a School Place – Primary/Secondary

The deadline for applying for a Secondary School place is **31st October 2021**. The deadline for applying for a Primary School place is **15th January 2022**. For both applications, the simplest way is online at: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/school-admissions>

If you need any further information, please contact the Admissions team on admissions@leics.gov.uk or 0116 305 6684.

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.

Changes to collection arrangements

Please let the school office know if there are any changes to your collection arrangements, either by telephone or via email office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk

Morrison's Free Gardening Equipment

For every £10 you spend (in store or online) at Morrisons, you'll get a Grow Token to help our school get everything we need to get growing. Please download the Morrisons app to start collecting Grow Tokens and then you will be able to donate them to Donisthorpe. We will be able to exchange the Grow Tokens for FREE gardening equipment.



Attendance update

Attendance has been very good so far this term. Thank you for your help in making sure that your children attend school and arrive on time. As we no longer have a staggered start to the day, punctuality is vitally important. Doors open at 8.35am and **close at 8.55am.**

Children arriving after that time will need to enter via the office. Many classes undertake important learning first thing in the morning whilst the children are bright and fresh and it can be unsettling for children who arrive late. If your child is unable to attend school, it is vitally important that you inform us of this and let us know *why*, before 9.00am on the day of absence. Please also arrive promptly to collect your child(ren) at the end of the school day.

Please email office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk or call the school, giving your child's name, class and a brief reason for absence.

Covid

We have unfortunately had a few confirmed positive cases of coronavirus since we reopened after the summer. Under new DfE guidance close contacts are now identified via NHS Test and Trace and schools are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing. Contacts from a school will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.

If your child has symptoms they must still get a PCR test and isolate until they get the result.

If your child is identified as a close contact via NHS Test and Trace, you should book a PCR. They do not have to isolate unless the PCR test comes back positive.

During this time, we continue to have the following control measures in place:

- Ensuring good hygiene for everyone
- Maintaining thorough cleaning regimes
- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated

We would encourage parents with any concerns to book a PCR test for their child.

If you have any questions about this or anything else, please telephone school or email office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk

Regards,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads 'Sylvie Newman'.

Sylvie Newman
Executive Headteacher