



Donisthorpe News

Friday 18th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for your support this week as we continue to get back into the routine of school! I think the children are now beginning to get tired as they are out of the habit of getting up for school each day...this is where we really get to develop our resilience character muscles!! We recommend the usual for this, plenty of sleep, drink lots of water, eat a healthy diet and try not to spend too much time after school on electronic devices- is always good to plug in devices over night outside bedrooms, so that children get and undisturbed night's sleep.

Community Kindness

We are four weeks into the autumn term and we have now had a number of children who have had symptoms of Covid and have had to go off for a test. I am pleased to say that no pupils (or staff) have tested positive to date, which is a huge relief.

More than ever before, we all need to work together to protect our children, the staff and our families and friends. Remember if your child develops non- COVID symptoms, i.e. cold, blocked nose etc. It is **your responsibility** to decide whether they are well enough to attend school. If they come to school, we will assume that they are well enough to be in school and will monitor them if the non-Covid symptoms are mentioned.

If they are not well enough to attend school, you must follow the usual procedure. Call the office to say that your child will not be in school and give the reason.

Displaying ANY of the Covid symptoms

If your child develops any of the three main COVID symptoms:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

you **MUST** request a COVID test immediately. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

I know that the difficulties with testing have been widely discussed in the media this week, but our school experience has been that test results have been coming back quite quickly, enabling families to return to normal life after only a short period of isolation.

So if you have any symptoms, seek advice from the NHS and get a test...and don't forget to inform the school office!

Face Coverings

This week, we were notified by the Director of Public Health and the Director of Children and Family Services at Leicestershire County Council, that face coverings should be worn by parents and carers at school pick up and drop off with immediate effect. We understand that there may be some parents/carers who are exempt, but we ask that where possible, adults dropping off and collecting children wear a face covering.

Staff outside at drop off and collection will now wear visors for their own safety. Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

Nuts in school

We have several children in school who have severe nut allergies and as children are now eating lunch in their classrooms it is even more important that we remember that lunchboxes should **not** contain any nuts; this includes Nutella type spreads.

Updating personal information/records

Please let the school office know as soon as possible if your personal details have changed so that our records can be updated.

Bikes locked

I'm really pleased to see so many children cycling and scooting to school, but I'd like to remind you all that bikes and scooters should be locked up when parked in the cycle/scooter park at the front of school. We cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to any unlocked items left in front of school.

Teacher emails

Last week I wrote to you with information about how you can contact your child's class teacher via email if you have any questions or queries. Please remember that teachers are teaching classes all day and only have a 45 minute break for lunch. They may not be able to reply to your message straight away, emails and phone calls here are likely not to be until the end of the day as teachers are busy teaching.

As a school we want our parents to develop positive relationships with their child's class teachers, but as an employer, the school has a duty to care for all staff to ensure that this system is manageable. Please see below for information about an opportunity to meet your teacher at parents evening.

Parents Evening

Due to coronavirus, it's unlikely that we'll be able to run a face-to-face parents' evening this autumn term. We will send home a settling in report and we plan to offer an optional Zoom meeting or telephone meeting with your child's class teacher. More details will be sent out shortly in a separate letter.

Harvest

This half term we would ordinarily be walking to church to celebrate Harvest and inviting parents and carers to join us. However, due to the current Covid crisis we will not be able to celebrate in the usual way. We still aim to mark the festival by celebrating in school and we also plan to be collect for the Ashby Food Bank, look out for more information on the next newsletter.

As always, if you have any questions or queries, do not hesitate to contact school.

Regards,



Sylvie Newman
Executive Headteacher