

Dear Parents and Carers,



Walking around school this week has been an absolute pleasure! The children are all working hard in class and are enjoying their time outside with friends. Our new EYFS children have made a super start to their school career and are quickly learning The Donisthorpe Way!

The weather has certainly turned colder, please make sure that your children are appropriately dressed for school, with a warm coat and hat/gloves; advice remains that we get the children outside as much as possible, so they need to be wrapped up! Advice for schools also suggests that we should ensure that the classrooms are well ventilated with windows remaining open whenever possible, so children will need their school jumper and cardigan in school too.

Face Coverings

Thank you so much to our parents and carers, for wearing face coverings at drop off and collection times; this really does help to keep everyone safe. 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. You will have noticed that staff will also be wearing a visor or mask for their own safety.



We have also been asked to discourage parents from gathering outside school on the pavement as this makes it more difficult for children to enter and exit the school site safely. Parents should either stay 2m apart or '1m plus' – which is one metre plus mitigations that will help to prevent transmission: e.g. wear a face covering. Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

School Meals



Thank you to all of the team in the kitchen for working so hard this week to provide a hot meal for the children. Feedback from the children (and staff) was very positive. We will be sending out further information next week about how we are planning to provide more opportunities for the children to order a hot meal, especially now the autumnal weather is upon us.

Harvest- 9th October

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 look out for pictures and videos from our EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 children on Facebook on Friday 9th October. We will be collecting tinned goods, dried foods and other non-perishables to donate to the **Marlene Reid Centre** for the Homeless. Please send any donations into school with your children on 9th October.



Parents Evening

We will send home a settling in report for each child on Monday 26th October and we plan to offer an optional Zoom meeting with your child's class teacher. These meetings will be held in the evening of Tuesday 3rd November and Thursday 5th November. More details will be sent out shortly in a separate letter.

End of Key Stage SATS

SATs week for our current Year 6 children will take place in the week beginning Monday 10th May 2021. National testing for Year 2 children will take place during the month of May 2021. We will be holding information meetings regarding testing arrangements for Year 6 and Year 2 later on in the school year. (These may need to be virtual meetings.)

Apply for a School Place – Primary/Secondary

The deadline for applying for a Secondary School place is **31st October 2020**. The deadline for applying for a Primary School place is **15th January 2021**. For both applications, the simplest way is online at: www.leics.gov.uk/admissions. If you need any further information, please contact the Admissions team on admissions@leics.gov.uk or 0116 305 6684.

PE kits

Please remember that our school PE kit for outdoors is as follows:

- ✓ **Blue** school logo PE shirt (or plain **royal blue**/plain **white** T-Shirt)
- ✓ **Blue** or **black** shorts/track suit or jogging bottoms with sweatshirt- children may also wear their Donisthorpe logoed sweatshirt over their PE T-shirt
- ✓ Trainers

As children are now wearing their sports kits to school all day on the day that they do PE it is even more important that they are wearing the correct kit.

Please contact me if you have any difficulties sourcing the appropriate kit. As this system has proved so successful, we are considering introducing a Donisthorpe Logoed zip up hoodie for PE from September 2021 and continuing to ask that children wear full kit on their PE days- we will keep parents informed if this is to be the case.

Changes to parent/carer collection arrangements

We understand that sometimes parent/carer collection arrangements may need to be changed at short notice for a variety of different reasons. To ensure these changes are communicated to class teachers before the end of the school day, can we kindly ask that parents/carers email the school office by 2.30pm. If it is after 2.30pm please call the school office. Thank you for continued support.

Half Term

School will close for half term on Friday 16th October and will reopen to children on Monday 26th October. ***Our staggered drop off and collection procedures will remain in place until further notice.***

Covid procedures:

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

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

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sylvie Newman".

Sylvie Newman
Executive Headteacher