

# WELCOME BACK!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! This is the first newsletter of the new academic year here at Donisthorpe. I trust that you are all safe and well, had a good summer break and enjoyed the lovely weather we had during the summer!

It is wonderful to see the children back together at school, smiling and excited, as we all are for the year ahead. The children have been absolutely amazing, taking part in whole school activities once again such as lunch in the hall, whole school assemblies and play times. Thank you to parents for your support around the different routines at the start and the end of the day too!

I would like to say a very warm welcome to our new children and their families; we have had some new children starting in Key Stage 1 as well as 30 new children beginning their Donisthorpe journey in EYFS this year.

## Farewell

This week, in assembly, we said a fond farewell to Reverend Vivien Elphick, who will be retiring in a few weeks. She has been such an important part of our community for 15 years and has spent time in school leading assemblies and conducting services at church for our children at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. We wish her well in her retirement and thank her for her contributions to the community in Donisthorpe and surrounding villages.

## Uniform

A huge thank you to all of our parents and carers, all the children have looked smart and ready to learn in their uniforms.

On outdoor PE days we ask that the children come to school in their correct outdoor PE kit (no football kits please) – speak to a member of SLT if you are having difficulty sourcing a black/navy hoodie.

## 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](mailto:office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk)

## Covid

We have unfortunately had a few confirmed positive cases of coronavirus in school since we reopened after the summer. We were so lucky during the peak of the pandemic, that I think it was inevitable that sooner or later there would be some positive cases at Donisthorpe.

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.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, if any of the following apply:

- They are fully vaccinated
- They are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- They have taken part in or are currently part of an approved covid-19 vaccine trial
- They are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

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

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

I am expecting further guidance from the Local Authority and Public Health England on symptoms to look out for in children and I will share this with you when I have it.

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 phone school or email [office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk)

Regards,



Sylvie Newman  
Executive Headteacher

<b>Diary Dates</b>		
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Year 2 Forest School</b>	All Day
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Year 3 Forest School</b>	All Day
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Year 6 Swimming	PM
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>Year 4 Forest School</b>	All Day
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	PTFA Bag 2 School Collection	AM
<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Year 5 Forest School</b>	All Day
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Year 6 Forest School</b>	All Day
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Phonics Meeting for EYFS Parents	AM
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Parents Evening	
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October</b>	School Photographer	AM
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Parents Evening	
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October</b>	School Closed for Half-Term	3.10pm
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October</b>	School re-opens	8.35am

<b>EYFS and Year 1 Forest School</b>		
<b>Every Friday starting Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September (last session Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October)</b>	Year 1	AM
	EYFS	PM