

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I'd like to welcome you all back to the second half of the Autumn term and thank you for your continued support and help in trying to reduce coronavirus infections in our community.

The first half of the autumn term presented many challenges to parents, school staff and wider support staff, as we all adjusted to new rules and arrangements and worked hard together to keep children safe in school and engaging with their learning.

As we enter another national lockdown, which is sure to present us all with more challenges, I wanted to reassure you all that school is doing everything we can to maintain as much normality as possible for the children whilst balancing the safety of pupils and staff.

As you will have read in the media, schools will remain open during the lockdown and we are awaiting further guidance from the government so see if we need to implement any additional measures during this time.

It is important that your child continues to attend school each day unless they have any Covid symptoms or are otherwise unwell. With less movement outside of school due to the lockdown, school should be even safer for the children.

I want to remind you of important steps we can all take to reduce the risk of infection both in schools as well as in the community:

- Remember to not share car journeys, however short with anyone outside of your support bubble during the lockdown period
- Remember to socially distance from other parents, children and staff when dropping off/collecting your children
- Wear a face covering on the school site and ideally until you are away from other families/back to your car
- Move away from the area outside school as quickly as possible to leave as much space as you can for others- especially important during the lockdown period
- Limit the number of adults accompanying your child to and from school- only one adult permitted on the school site for drop off/collection
- Remember that the lockdown means that play dates after school will be on hold until restrictions are eased
- We will only be able to release children to parents or members of their support bubble during the lockdown period



→ If your child walks home on their own, support us in encouraging them not to do so as part of a large group- they may well be with others from their bubble, but members of the public may be worried if they see large groups of children walking together



Celebrations/Events in school

Remembrance

On Remembrance **Sunday 8th November 2020** there will be Two Minute Silence on doorsteps, we will be encouraging the children to take part.

We will be talking with the children in school about Remembrance and have planned activities in school to commemorate those who have fallen. Children will take part in a two minute silence in school on **Wednesday 11th November** in their classrooms.

Children in Need

On **Friday 13th November** it is Children in Need! Children are invited to come to school dressed in spots or stripes, or even a combination of the two! We ask that children bring in a suggested minimum donation of £1.00 for this worthwhile cause thank you in advance for your support.



Christmas Dates



Celebrating Christmas may be very different at home this year, however we are still planning on celebrating in school! We will be putting together a Christmas celebration video that will be shared with you on Friday 11th December, so put the date in your diary! Children will be making cards and decorations and will be bringing these home to share with you!

The socially distanced pantomime will go ahead for each phase on **Friday 18th December**, there will be one actor and a screen to share the main performance- we're really pleased it can still go ahead!

We will also be taking part in Christmas jumper day on **Friday 11th December** to raise money for Save the Children. There is a suggested minimum donation of £1.00 for this worthwhile cause thank you in advance for your support.

Parents Evening

Thank you to all those parents who joined us for parents evening via Zoom. It was our first time 'Zooming' for parents in this way, but apart from a few technical hitches it went really well and it may be something that we continue in the future post Covid!

School Photographer - Monday 9th November

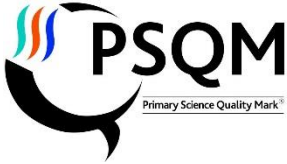
The school photographer will be in school on Monday 9th November to take individual photos of the children. Due to COVID-19 restrictions this year we are unable to invite younger siblings to join us or take photos of siblings together if they are in a different bubble.

NHS Flu Vaccinations – Thursday 19th November

For your child to receive the NHS Flu Vaccination you will need to have completed the ONLINE consent form by visiting: www.leicsandrutlandimms.co.uk/Forms/Flu. You will also need a school code. For Donistorpe Primary School the code is LE119944. Please also refer to email sent via Teachers2Parents 14/10/20.



Beyond Bullying-I am delighted to announce that we have been awarded a Silver Beyond Bullying Award, by Leicestershire County Council. This award is in recognition of the school's work to further improve the culture in the school and for its achievements in embedding effective anti-bullying practice. Well done everyone, particularly to Mrs Heath who leads on this in school.



Primary Science – A huge well done also goes to Mrs Lavender for leading the school in achieving the Primary Science Quality Mark. This award was received as recognition of the quality of teaching and learning taking place across the whole school through science.



If you are displaying 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/>

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.

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

Regards,

Sylvie Newman
Executive Headteacher