

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy few weeks it's been at school! Last week was dominated by Year 6 SATs tests. Our Year 6 children took the tests in their stride! The buzz of excitement in the morning SATs breakfast club was lovely and they approached the week with confidence and resilience. In our Year 6 class, we have talented mathematicians, future authors, amazing sportspeople and awe-inspiring artists. We have young filmmakers, computer code whizz-kids, hilarious entertainers and commanding public speakers. We have film buffs, animal experts, awesome chefs and fantastic dancers. Most importantly, we have happy young people who know the importance of being kind to each other, working hard, staying positive and looking out for their friends. The tests are just a small part of school life and our children have once again done us - and you - proud. Well done Year 6!

Last week we were also visited by Ofsted! Thank you all so much for the many supportive comments during the inspection, we do not have the report yet, but as soon as we have it I will share it with parents/carers.

Sunny Weather!

We really are enjoying all the sunny weather, with lots of classes taking their learning out into our amazing grounds. With this in mind, can I remind parents to send children to school with a sun hat for playtime, as the sun is at its strongest when the children are playing outside. If sending sun cream, children should be able to apply it themselves. Please also make sure that everything sent into school is named.



Young Voices

Wow! What a trip! Children from Year 5 and 6 took part in the 'Young Voices' concert at NEC in Birmingham on Wednesday 18th May. It was the most amazing day which was the finale to a year of rehearsals and preparation. The children sang as part of a 5000 strong choir, who rehearsed together during the afternoon and then

performed to an audience of family and friends in the evening concert. All of the staff who accompanied the children on this amazing trip were so proud of the conduct and behaviour of our children. They were great fun to be with for the day and really pulled together as a team. We would like to thank all of the families who supported the children through their Young Voices journey from start to finish. For those families who attended the evening concert in



Birmingham, we hope that you had a memorable and enjoyable evening. It was great to know that you were out there supporting us. We are already planning next year's event!

Sporting News!

Well done to our Year 5/6 Netball team who took part in the tournament held this week! The children were superstars, with both teams playing amazingly and showing such good sportsmanship and respect. Well done to Donisthorpe B for playing brilliantly and reaching the quarter finals and to Donisthorpe A who made it all the way through to the finals and will be playing New Swannington very soon.



Rising costs

We cannot escape the fact that costs are rising for all of us at the moment. As a school we are also feeling the pinch with the increased costs of resources, utilities and food. If you are struggling financially- you could be eligible for funding for us to use to support your child in school.

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, we'll receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.

What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils achieve their best regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

At Donisthorpe Primary School we get an extra £1,345 funding from the government for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money makes a real difference to the quality of education we offer.

For example, we've previously used pupil premium funding for:

- Educational provision/resources
- Academic interventions
- Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions
- Support towards costs of trips and residentials
- Support towards costs of school uniform

Is my child eligible for free school meals?

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

Please pop into the school office if you think you might be eligible to find out more about how to apply. If you need any other assistance, please see me and I will be able to signpost you to other services and support.

School dinner costs

Unfortunately, the impact of rising costs means that we will be putting up the cost of school meals from the Autumn Term. **The new cost will be £2.50 per day, £12.50 per week starting from when school reopens in August.**

School trips

Post Covid, teachers have been keen to organise trips and visits for their classes, however although the costs of entry to visitor attractions has not increased significantly, the cost of coaches has rocketed due to the high price of diesel/petrol. This may mean that trips may have to be cancelled if we receive insufficient parent contributions. We will endeavour to give as much notice as possible to parents for trips and visits for the next academic year.

Sad Goodbye

We are really sad to announce that Mrs Eaton our wonderful LSA and ELSA support has been offered an exciting new opportunity at Ivanhoe College and will be leaving us after half term. We will all be really sad to see her go and would like to thank her for all of her hard work whilst at Donisthorpe. We wish you well in the future Mrs Eaton.

Parking issues

Yet again local residents have expressed concerns to me about illegal and unsafe parking around school drop off and collection times. Local residents say they are unable to leave their homes in the morning as cars continue to be parked unsafely on pavements. If an ambulance or fire engine needed access to a local home, this could actually put lives at risk.

Please consider parking a short distance from school and walking the remainder of the route. We know time is precious and everyone is busy but the children are also precious and it is only a matter of time before a parent, in a hurry to drop off their child and get on with their day, results in a serious injury or worse.

Local police are happy for residents to send photographs of illegally parked cars to them along with registration numbers.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations

On Friday 27th May as part of our Platinum Jubilee celebrations we would like children to come to school dressed in red, white and blue (or they could even dress as a member of the royal family!). In classes during the day, children will be making hats and flags and taking part in other fun activities. Children will also be making banners and bunting to display in school. During the afternoon we will all go out into the school grounds (weather permitting) and have a good old-fashioned party!

We will need a few picnic blankets to sit on whilst we eat, so if you have one that you can spare for the afternoon please let the school office know! School will provide the children with drinks, snacks and an ice cream from the ice-cream van; it should be a really lovely event!

The "Queen's Reign" Picture Competition

We would like children across the school to take part in our special "Queen's Reign" picture competition. We would like children create a picture of the Queen- it can be from any point in her reign.



Please draw, paint or collage your design on a piece of paper or card no bigger than A3 and write your name and year group on the back.

Please send all competition entries to school no later than the morning of **Wednesday 25th May**. We will be announcing the winners on **Friday 27th May**. There will be prizes for EYFS/Key Stage 1/Lower Key Stage 2/Upper Key Stage 2, so get drawing and good luck!!



Regards,

Sylvie Newman, Executive Headteacher

Diary dates		
25.05.22	New parents meeting for EYFS August 2022 starters	6.00pm
27.05.22	Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations- children can wear red, white and blue. Themed activities throughout the day in school including a visit from the ice cream man!	
27.05.22	School closes for half term	3.10pm
Half term		
06.06.22	School reopens to children	Doors open at 8.35am
11.06.22	MAT consultation closes	
13.06.22	Open classroom- parents are invited to joins their children in class to look at the children's work in books and on display in class	2.45pm
23.06.22	Sports Day	1.00pm on the school field
27.06.22	Sports Day reserve date in case of wet weather	1.00pm on the school field
29.06.22	Year 6 transition day (Ivanhoe/Ashby School/Ibstock)	All day
30.06.22	Year 6 transition day (Ivanhoe/Ashby School/Ibstock)	All day
30.06.22	EYFS and Years 1-5 move up morning	
01.07.22	EYFS into Year 1 additional move up morning	
05.07.22	Year 6 Leavers Show	6.00pm
07.07.22	Year 6 Reward Day at Drayton Manor	All day
08.07.22	Year 6 Leavers celebration in school	
08.07.22	Last day of term	3.10pm
Summer Holiday		
30.08.22	School reopens to children	Doors open at 8.35am