

Dear Parents/Carers,

Since the last News Letter both the staff and children have had a very busy time at school, raising money, welcoming guest speakers to talk about future careers, hosting Forest School sessions for the grown ups and delivering phonic workshops with the children. However without your continued support and the support of our school community, these events would not be possible.



### Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

Thank you to everybody who was able to attend the Macmillan coffee afternoon on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September and for the kind donations we received from the visitors and parents who were unable to attend in person. With your support, we raised an amazing £179.89 in aid of a very worthy cause!

### EYFS Phonics Workshop



It was lovely to welcome so many of our EYFS parents and carers to join Miss Bloor's Phonics Workshop on Thursday morning. The children had a wonderful time sharing their learning with the grown ups who were able to join us. We hope you found the whole experience very worthwhile and feel more informed about how you can support your child at home with their reading and writing activities. We will be putting more information on our school website for those of you who were unable to join us.



### Donisthorpe Apple Day

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October is Donisthorpe Apple Day, from 12noon in the Apple Orchard. Hopefully you will be able to come along and enjoy a delicious cake or two that are being sold by the PTFA.

### Harvest Festival 2019- EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 children

You are all welcome to join us at 9.30am on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October at St John's Church in Donisthorpe for this year's Harvest Festival. We will be collecting tinned goods, dried foods and other non-perishables to donate to the Marlene Reid Centre for the Homeless. Any parents/carers attending the service may take donations directly to the church on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October. If you are not attending the service please send food donations to school with your children and we will transport produce to the church to be distributed by church members. We still need a few volunteers to walk with the children and staff down to the church on Monday. We will be leaving school at 9.00am so that the children can be seated and ready to start at 9.30am.



### Parents Evening Reminder

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October is Parents Evening. If you have not yet booked an appointment time please check the online booking system for available appointments.

### Smoking

Please can I remind parents that we are a no smoking site. I'd also like to politely request that adults do not smoke outside the school gates.

### Parent Questionnaire Feedback

Thank you to all those parents who completed the recent parent questionnaire. We received completed questionnaires from 92 families; it was pleasing to see that parents were overwhelmingly positive about the school's work. There has been an improvement on last year's feedback which is excellent news.

<b>My child likes school. 99%</b>		
<b>Staff expect my child to work hard and do his or her best. 99%</b>	<b>Staff encourage my child to become mature and independent. 99%</b>	<b>My child is making good progress. 98%</b>
<b>The school is led and managed well. 98%</b>	<b>Teaching at Donisthorpe is good. 97%</b>	<b>There is a good range of activities that my child finds interesting and enjoyable. 97%</b>
<b>Most children behave well. 96%</b>	<b>The school gives me information about events and activities. 95%</b>	<b>I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or a problem or a complaint. 95%</b>
<b>I feel welcome in the school and am encouraged to take part in school activities and events. 93%</b>	<b>I find it easy to contact my child's class teacher. 93%</b>	<b>My child is not bullied at school. 89%</b>
<b>The school seeks the views of parents and takes account of their suggestions and concerns. 88%</b>	<b>I am kept informed about how my child is getting on. 86%</b>	<b>The school provides appropriate homework. 80%</b>

There are some areas that we still need to improve and we will be working on these areas this term.

### **I am kept informed about how my child is getting on.**

This week parents of children in years 1 to 6 will have received a Settling in Report to help to give you more information about how your child is getting on at school. Parents Evening is next week and we encourage all parents to make an appointment to discuss this report. Before the next Parents Evening you will receive a midterm report and these documents, alongside discussion at parents evening should help to give you as much information as possible about how your child is doing at school. End of year reports in July will summarise your child's attainment and progress during the year, these will be in a new simplified format to make them more accessible.

### **The school seeks the views of parents and takes account of their suggestions and concerns.**

Questionnaires like the one families have just completed are a great way for the school to seek the views of parents and to take account of your suggestions and concerns. Parents make many helpful suggestions during the year, some of which we can act on and some of which we do not. This is simply because we have to make decisions based on the needs of the pupils in the whole school.

**My child is not bullied at school.**

We work tirelessly to ensure that bullying does not happen in our school. If any parents raise any concerns around bullying we follow the appropriate school policy and deal with matters on a case by case basis. Unfortunately, children sometimes make mistakes and poor choices with their behaviour. It is our job to work with individuals and families to ensure that children learn from their mistakes. This year we will be working with Leicestershire County Council to achieve The Beyond Bullying Award. Part of the accreditation involves reviewing all school policies and procedures relating to bullying, looking at the school environment and pupils/parent perception too. Look out for more information about this on future newsletters.

**The school provides appropriate homework.**

We are currently reviewing our homework policy as part a wider review of the school curriculum. Feedback on this varies, some parents love Brainbulider, some parents hate it, some parents want less homework, some want more!! We have to ensure that any work that we send for children to complete at home, is purposeful and supports learning in school. Look out for more information next half term.

Thank you as well for the fantastic comments that parents added to the questionnaires. Some of which included:



**It feels like a community, strong family values.**

**The staff are welcoming the school is inclusive.**

**My child loves going to school.**

**Staff encourage good behaviour and have high expectations.**

**A brilliant school!**

**Every pupil is treated as an individual and is known by the staff.**

**We love forest school!**

**My son loves every aspect of school life and loves going to school!**

**It's a friendly school that not only teaches the academic subjects but helps to develop character too!**

**I love the happy and caring attitudes and approach to schooling!**

## **End of Key Stage SATS**

**SATs week for our current Year 6 children will take place in the week beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020.** National testing for Year 2 children will take place during the month of May 2020. We will be holding information meetings regarding testing arrangements for Year 6 and Year 2 later on in the school year.

## **Apply for a School Place – Primary/Secondary**

The deadline for applying for a *Secondary School* place is **31st October 2019**. The deadline for applying for a *Primary School* place is **15th January 2020**. For both applications, the simplest way is online at: [www.leics.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.leics.gov.uk/admissions). If you need any further information, please contact the Admissions team on [admissions@leics.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@leics.gov.uk) or 0116 305 6684.

## **Contact Information**

Please remember to regularly update the school office in writing if there are any changes to the contact details we have on record for your child, including people on your contact list who have permission to collect your child from school.

As always, if you have any questions or queries, do not hesitate to talk to me or to your child's class teacher.

*Sylvie Newman*

**Executive Headteacher**