

# Donisthorpe Primary School Newsletter

Ambitious Nurturing Positive



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! This is the first newsletter of the new academic year here at Donisthorpe. I trust that you have had a lovely summer break and enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

It is wonderful to see the children back at school, smiling and as excited as we all are for the year ahead. The children have settled in brilliantly and have very much enjoyed time in their classes getting to know their teachers and meeting new friends.

I would like to say a welcome to our new children and their families; we have 28 new children beginning their Donisthorpe journey in EYFS this year. We also have a number of new children across the school, so a warm welcome to you all!

The weather this week has been so lovely, quite a contrast to the summer of rain! If it continues into next week, please make sure that children have a hat for outside breaks.

## 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- please see a member of SLT if you are having difficulty sourcing the correct uniform.**

## EYFS parents (2024 intake) Open Evening

Do you have a child who is due to start school in September 2024? Choosing your child's school is an important decision. This evening is aimed at giving new parents as much information as possible in order to help them make the right decision. Our Open Evening will take place on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm.**

There will be a short presentation in the hall, followed by a chance to tour our amazing EYFS classroom and talk informally to staff. We will be advertising this event locally, but if you or someone you know is interested in attending, they can book a place by contacting the school office.

## Mild Illnesses

We are aware that the COVID-19 pandemic may have caused some parents to feel less confident when assessing whether your child is well enough to be in school. As we all know, school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and being in school regularly improves health and wellbeing. We would encourage parents to use the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) if you are unsure what to do.



### **Tesco Community Grants**

Soon you will be able to vote for funding for our Year 1 and 2 outdoor area when you are doing your weekly shop! Tesco Community Grants helps to fund thousands of local projects across the country; the project with the highest number of votes will receive £1,500, the second placed project £1,000 and the third placed project £500. Voting will commence in store from the first week of October 2023 until Mid-January 2024. **So, if you are shopping at Tesco during this time, please ask for a blue token and pop it in the collection point!**

**Fingers crossed!**

### **New timings**

Thank you all so much for your support with the changes to the timing of the school day, remember that the doors close at 8.45am for registration and the children will not be released until; 3.15pm at the end of the day.

### **End of day arrangements**

I thought it might be useful to remind everyone of the arrangements for the end of the day. As you will be aware, this is a very busy time with lots of children and adults on the school site. We have a range of procedures in place to keep the children as safe as possible.

To help the children locate their adults we ask that parents try to stand in the same place each day.

May we kindly ask that once on the playground, please do not wait by the gates as it is crucial that these areas have clear visibility. Please can we remind you to arrive on time to collect your child or let the office know if you are running late, so that a member of staff can be responsible for your child until you arrive (remember that there is an after-school club on site daily if needed).

EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 children are released from their classroom doors.

Year 3 and Year 4 staff will bring children out onto the playground before the gates are opened for collection.

Year 5 and Year 6 children will be released from the canopy. If children cannot see you, they should stand by an adult until you arrive.

**Teachers/support staff are out by the gates/on the playground at the end of the day, please do not heistate to chat to us you have any questions- or just to introduce yourself!**

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

### **Are you entitled to Free School Meals?**

Children of families in receipt of certain benefits may be eligible for additional funding – Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) - which we can use to provide free school milk and lunches for your child. Support with paying for school trips and other educational activities can be offered by the SLT for pupils in receipt of this funding. Even if you don't wish to take advantage of any of these, school can still claim much needed funding for those who are eligible. Under current rules the funding lasts for 6 years, even if your circumstances change in that time. If you have not already applied, or if your circumstances have changed recently, we would encourage you to check eligibility and apply online. Please contact the school office for more details.



### **We got platinum!**

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Platinum Mark Award for the 2022/23 academic year. This is the highest award that the School Games Mark issues.



The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

We are extremely proud of our children for their dedication to all aspects of school sport,

including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who make our competitions possible. As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at Donisthorpe has been rewarded this year.

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

It is fast approaching the time when Year 6 parents need to apply for their secondary school places. To assist you in this, the feeder secondary schools will have open evenings over the coming weeks – details on their websites. The deadline for applying for a Secondary School place is **31st October 2023**.

The deadline for applying for a Primary School place is **15th January 2024**. For both applications, the simplest way is online at: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/school-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.

If you have any questions about this or anything else, please telephone school or email [office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk)

Regards,

Sylvie Newman  
Executive Headteacher

# 2023-2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please find below dates for this academic year- we have tried to include as much information as possible here! This information will be added to the biweekly newsletter and will also be available on the school website.



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<b>13 Sept</b>	Forest School Year 2 on site	All day
<b>14 Sept</b>	Year 6 Swimming begins	pm
<b>20 Sept</b>	Forest School Year 3 Hicks Lodge	All day
<b>21 Sept</b>	PTFA AGM- in school (Room 1)	2.00pm all welcome
<b>26 Sept</b>	Forest School Year 4 Hicks Lodge	All day
<b>29 Sept</b>	Settling in reports sent home	
<b>2 Oct</b>	Parents Evening face to face	3.30pm to 7.00pm
<b>4 Oct</b>	New EYFS Intake 2024 Open Evening	6.30pm to 7.00pm
<b>5 Oct</b>	Parents Evening face to face	3.30pm to 7.00pm
<b>9 Oct</b>	Year 6 Residential	
<b>9 Oct</b>	Year 6 Forest School	
<b>10 Oct</b>	Year 6 Residential	
<b>10 Oct</b>	Year 6 Forest School	
<b>11 Oct</b>	Year 6 Residential	
<b>13 Oct</b>	School closes for half term	3.15pm
<b>October Half term</b>		
<b>23 Oct</b>	School reopens	8.30am
<b>23 Oct</b>	Everyone Belongs Week	
<b>24 Oct</b>	Multi Faith Roadshow in school	All day
<b>26 Oct</b>	Individual photos	am
<b>2 Nov</b>	Year 5 Swimming begins	pm
<b>10 Nov</b>	Remembrance Day	
<b>13 Nov</b>	Anti-Bullying Week	
<b>13 Nov</b>	Odd Sock Day- children can come to school wearing Odd Socks with their uniforms!	All day
<b>17 Nov</b>	Children in Need details TBC	All Day
<b>13 Dec</b>	EYFS/Year 1 Nativity	2.30pm
<b>14 Dec</b>	EYFS/Year 1 Nativity	9.15am
<b>21 Dec</b>	Pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk	pm
<b>TBC</b>	Year 2 to Year 6 Christmas service	
<b>22 Dec</b>	School closes for Christmas	3.15pm
<b>Christmas Break</b>		
<b>8 Jan</b>	School reopens for children	8.30am
<b>24 Jan</b>	Yong Voices Year 5/6	
<b>6 Feb</b>	Safer Internet Day	
<b>9 Feb</b>	Mid Year reports sent home	
<b>12 Feb</b>	Parents Evening face to face	3.30pm to 7.00pm
<b>15 Feb</b>	Parents Evening face to face	3.30pm to 7.00pm
<b>16 Feb</b>	Everyone Belongs Day	
<b>16 Feb</b>	School closes for half term	3.15pm
<b>February Half term</b>		

<b>26 Feb</b>	School reopens for children	8.30am
<b>27 Feb</b>	Year 1 Phonics Meeting for parents	5.00pm
<b>7 March</b>	World Book Day	All day
<b>22 March</b>	School closes for Easter	3.15pm
<b>Easter Break</b>		
<b>8 April</b>	School reopens for children	8.30am
<b>18 April</b>	Class Photos	am
<b>6 May</b>	School closed for Bank Holiday	All day
<b>13 May</b>	Year 6 SATS week	
<b>24 May</b>	School closes for Half Term	3.15pm
<b>May Half term</b>		
<b>3 June</b>	School reopens for children	8.30am
<b>3 June</b>	Year 4 Multiplication check window	
<b>10 June</b>	Year 4 Multiplication check window	
<b>10 June</b>	Year 1 phonics check week begins	
<b>TBC</b>	Saffron Lane- NWLSSP sporting event, selected KS2 children TBC	
<b>14 June</b>	Sports Day- School field refreshments provided by the PTFA	1.00pm
<b>26 June</b>	Ashby School's Induction Day for Year 6	
<b>27 June</b>	Reserve Date for Sports Day- in case of wet weather	1.00pm
<b>3 July</b>	End of Year Reports out to parents	
<b>4 July</b>	Open Evening to look at books and discuss reports	3.15pm-4.15pm
<b>4 July</b>	In school move up morning EYFS to Year 5	am
<b>5 July</b>	Year 6 Leavers performance	2.00pm
<b>8 July</b>	Year 6 Drayton Manor Reward Trip	All day
<b>9 July</b>	Year 6 Leavers Lunch	
<b>9 July</b>	Last day of the school year	
<b>Summer Break- have a wonderful Summer!</b>		
<b>27 August</b>	School reopens for children	8.30am