

Donisthorpe Primary School Newsletter

Ambitious Nurturing Positive



Friday 9th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another busy week in school. All children have been working hard on their learning and I have seen some excellent writing, maths work and artwork from children who have been sent to my office for a special Headteacher sticker- well done everyone! Walking around classrooms, I have been amazed by the children's fabulous attitudes and thirst for learning- they are all working successfully on their own, in pairs or in small groups: skills that will stand them in great stead as they move on through the school. There is a genuine warmth and enjoyment radiating from classrooms at Donisthorpe and it is so lovely to see!

Parents Evening- don't forget to book your appointment!

Parents evening is on Monday 12th February and Thursday 15th February, I know that there will be lots of very proud parents and families when you hear more about your children's learning next week! Bookings close on Monday at 9.00am so don't forget to book your appointment!



Safer Internet Day

Last Tuesday was Safer Internet Day. The theme this year has been: 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'. The internet is an ever present part of daily life and has many positive aspects but giving out too much personal information and "over sharing" online can have consequences.



Increasing numbers of children have mobile phones, access to the internet, play games online or use social media sites.



As parents we know that most of these apps/games require users to be 13 years old or older, but children are using them anyway so we need to be proactive in supporting our children to use them safely. This week, we have spoken to the children about the dangers of sharing too much personal information online. A good way to think about this is asking your child, what

details would you be happy to reveal about yourself on a poster in your high street? Children need to think carefully before they reveal any personal information and should be encouraged to think about who has access to it and how long it stays online.



Tik Tok

We have also reminded children that- if you wouldn't say it or show it to your parents; you should not be saying it/sharing it online or in a group chat. We suggest that children use the 5 second rule before sending any messages- think about what you have written for 5 seconds before pressing send- is what you have written appropriate/kind? **If not DON'T send it!**

We know how important it is to protect and educate young people on using the internet; computing is an important part of your child's education and increasingly their social life. It is essential that at school and at home we work together to ensure that children understand the benefits that technology can bring and ensure that the children know how to use technology safely. Ask yourself tonight; are you checking your children's online activity or chat history? If you are not...go and check!

Whatever your level of knowledge or confidence, these five tips will help you start, manage and maintain an open dialogue with your children about life online, and help you support them to use technology safely and positively.



Be positive and open minded about the internet

It's important to recognise the exciting opportunities that going online can offer children and young people. Although your children may use the internet differently to you, their experiences are still significant. If your child mentions something you haven't heard of, ask them to show you, or explain in more detail, or you may need to do your own research. Try to keep conversations broad, and value their opinions when they're talking about what they enjoy doing, to show that you are interested in all aspects of their online world.



Talk early and often

The most effective way to deal with any online issue is to make conversations about the internet a part of your everyday routine. Talking openly about life online from an early age, can be a helpful bridge to sharing safety messages and addressing more difficult conversations at a later date; it also shows your child that you are someone who knows about the internet and can help them.



Create a safe space for conversations

Look for opportunities to talk together. Sometimes, talking face-to-face can feel difficult, so talking alongside each other when out for a walk, or travelling in the car for example, are options that might make it easier. The environment needs to be right; free from distractions, so that your child has your undivided attention. Remind them often that they can talk to you about anything, no matter how difficult, and that they will not be judged or blamed. Your child might not be ready to talk about something straight away, so show them that you are there to listen whenever they are ready.



Keep it relevant

As they get older, your children will use technology differently from when they first went online. Their knowledge and understanding will grow too, as will the challenges they may face on the internet. To get a sense of how much they know and what support they still need, ask open-ended questions to let your child lead the conversations you have. There are appropriate ways to approach all online safety topics with different ages. For example, with a teenager, nude images can be spoken about in wider conversations around consent and healthy relationships. For younger children, you could discuss what types of images are okay to share online, and what areas of our bodies are private.



Be proactive

Working together to create an agreement, outlining how the internet and technology will be used within the family, is a useful way to set clear expectations and boundaries for your children. You might include time spent online; who your children can communicate with; appropriate apps and games; and why safety tools are helpful to block and report inappropriate content. Ask your child what they would do if something went wrong online and they needed help, and reinforce the importance of telling an adult as soon as anything happens that makes them feel upset, worried, or uncomfortable in any way.

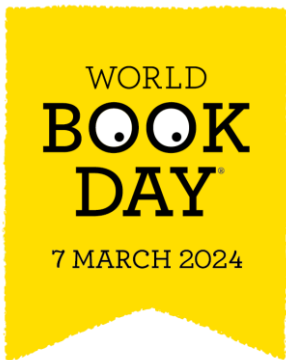
There is a lot more information about how to help your child stay safe online on the safeguarding page of our website <http://www.donisthorpeprimary.org/safeguarding.html>

Farewell to Mrs Eldridge!

On Thursday next week we will say a fond farewell to Mrs Eldridge, one of our amazing LSA's. After many years of service at Donisthorpe Primary School she has decided that the time is now right to retire. Mrs Eldridge's time at Donisthorpe began in 1993. Over the years she has had such a positive impact on the school and has been a huge part of what makes Donisthorpe Primary School such a wonderful place to work and learn. It will be very hard to replace her enthusiasm and warm nature around the school. We would like to wish her a very enjoyable and well deserved retirement- I'm sure you agree she needs a well-earned rest.



You will be sorely missed by us all Linda!



World Book Day

This year we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. We have some great activities planned for the day, including story sharing and stop, drop and read! Children can come to school dressed ready for a bedtime story in their comfiest clothes or can come dressed as a book character! Whatever is easier for our families! I know we will all have a wonderful day!

If you have any questions, please phone school or email office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sylvie Newman'.

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. newsletter and will also be available on the school website.



9 Feb	Mid-Year reports sent home	
12 Feb	Parents Evening face to face	3.30pm to 7.00pm
14 Feb	PTFA Love Yourself Day	
15 Feb	Parents Evening face to face	3.30pm to 7.00pm
16 Feb	Everyone Belongs Day	
16 Feb	School closes for half term	3.15pm
February Half term		
26 Feb	School reopens for children	8.30am
27 Feb	Year 1 Phonics meeting for parents	5.00pm
7 Mar	World Book Day Children can come dressed ready for a bedtime story in their comfiest clothes or as a book character	All day
8 Mar	PTFA Mother's Day – Pop up Shop Flowers/Gifts for sale	
22 Mar	School closes for Easter	3.15pm
Easter Break		
8 Apr	School reopens for children	8.30am
18 Apr	Class Photos	am
6 May	School closed for Bank Holiday	All day
13 May	Year 6 SATS week	
17 May	Year 6 Forest School Hicks Lodge	
24 May	PTFA Friday Funday / Spring Fair	
24 May	School closes for Half Term	3.15pm
May Half term		
3 Jun	School reopens for children	8.30am
3 Jun	Year 4 Multiplication check window	
10 Jun	Year 4 Multiplication check window	
10 Jun	Year 1 phonics check week begins	
TBC	Saffron Lane- NWLSSP sporting event, selected KS2 children TBC	
14 Jun	Sports Day- School field refreshments provided by the PTFA	1.00pm
26 Jun	Ashby School Induction Day for Year 6	
27 Jun	Reserve Date for Sports Day- in case of wet weather	1.00pm
3 Jul	End of Year Reports out to parents	
4 Jul	In school move up morning EYFS to Year 5	am
4 Jul	Open Evening to look at books and discuss reports	3.15pm-4.15pm
5 Jul	Year 6 Leavers performance	2.00pm
8 Jul	Year 6 Drayton Manor Reward Trip	All day
9 Jul	Year 6 Leavers Lunch	
9 Jul	Last day of the school year	
Summer Break- have a wonderful Summer!		
27 Aug	School reopens for children	8.30am