



# Newsletter

Positive Ambitious Nurturing

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

The past few weeks in school have been very festive! From Christmas Jumper Day and EYFS Christmas Celebrations to decorating our Christmas tree and today's Carol Concert, there has been lots going on. A huge well done to all the children who performed in the Carol Concert today—you were fantastic! Thank you also to all the parents who joined us and supported the many Christmas arrangements across school. Your involvement really helps make these celebrations special – and well done for keeping track of it all!



Beyond the festive events, our children have been engaging in exciting learning experiences. Year 6 were

part of history in the making when they joined a live webinar with Robert Swan from Antarctica! This was the first ever live broadcast from this incredible continent, focusing on climate change



issues. The children have been so enthusiastic and passionate about this subject, with many sharing ideas for fundraising initiatives with me on the playground. Moving forward, Year 6 will act as our Sustainability Committee, helping to guide the school in environmental initiatives.

Elsewhere, our recent Book Swap was a huge success! It was wonderful to see the children so excited about the new books they were taking home, sharing their love of reading and discovering new stories.

As we finish the term, I would like to wish all our families a very Merry Christmas. I hope you enjoy some special time with your loved ones over the holiday period.



## Staffing News

We are pleased to share that Miss Dennis, our incoming Deputy Headteacher, will also be taking over the role of SENDCO from Mrs Heath. Miss Dennis will return from maternity leave next term for two days a week, increasing to four days a week in the Summer term. We are delighted to welcome someone with such a broad range of experience across key stages—and teaching in schools all around the world—into this important position. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing congratulations and best of luck to Miss Dennis, who is very excited, in her new role.

Next week will be Mrs Heath's final week in school, with her last day being Thursday. I would like to once again express my thanks for her many years of dedicated service to Donisthorpe, in a variety of roles including class teacher, deputy head, and SENDCO. Her hard work has made a real difference to so many children during her time here.

## Christmas Fun Next Week

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for the EYFS Christmas Celebration and today's Christmas Carol Service. Your support at this busy time of year—both in school and at home—is greatly appreciated.



As we head into the final week of term, here are the upcoming Christmas celebrations:

### Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity – Tuesday 16th December (School Hall)

- Morning Performance: 10:00am–10:30am (Doors open 9:50am)
- Afternoon Performance: 2:00pm–2:30pm (Doors open 1:50pm)

**Please note:** Attendance is limited to **two adults per child per performance** due to fire regulations.

### Christmas Parties

- Year 1 & Year 2 – Wednesday 17th December
- Year 5 & Year 6 – Wednesday 17th December
- Year 3 & Year 4 – Friday 19th December

Children are allowed to wear **party clothes** to school on the day of their party.

### PTFA Christmas Disco – Thursday 18th December



• **EYFS & KS1:** 3:15–4:15pm

• **KS2:** 4:30–5:30pm

Scan the **QR code** to pay for tickets. Many thanks to our PTFA for all the hard work they are putting into organising this event!

## Whole-School Wellbeing Day – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January



On the first day back after the Christmas break, we will be holding a Wellbeing Day across the school. We know that returning to school after time away can feel like a big transition for some children, and this day will give everyone the chance to settle back in gently and positively.

Teachers will plan a range of age-appropriate activities to help children understand what wellbeing means and how they can look after their own mental health. Children are welcome to come to school in non-uniform, wearing comfortable clothes.

## The Nook – Festive Treats

Next week, The Nook will be spreading some festive cheer!

- Breakfast sessions: special 'Christmas Croissant' available.
- Afternoon sessions (Wednesday & Thursday): 'Christmas Party' food will be served.



## Assemblies

Last week, our Open the Book volunteers visited school and brought the Christmas story to life for the children, helping everyone reflect on the meaning of this special season.

In Key Stage 2, our assemblies have focused on learning about healthy and unhealthy relationships, exploring how different behaviours can make us feel and how to recognise when a relationship is positive or when it might be unhelpful or unsafe. This has encouraged thoughtful discussions and helped the children develop greater awareness of the signs of respectful, supportive friendships.

Meanwhile, in EYFS and Key Stage 1, the children learned about 'Glitter Girl', a young girl who turned her disability into a creative superpower and encourages others to celebrate their own unique strengths and to understand that challenges can be turned into something positive.

## Everyone Active – Adopt a School Partnership



A reminder that our school has been selected for Everyone Active's Adopt a School initiative!

All children, parents, and staff can enjoy two weeks of free access to selected Everyone Active facilities between 9 December and 13 January. The two-week period begins from the moment you scan the QR code, which will be included in this newsletter and displayed on the school banner. The offer includes two weeks of free swimming for children and two weeks full membership for parents. We hope many of you take advantage of this generous offer to enjoy some festive fun and exercise!



### **Reminder: Rotary Art Competition – “Happiness in Nature”**

We are delighted that the children at Donisthorpe Primary School will have the opportunity to take part in the Rotary Club of Ashby de la Zouch’s Young Artist Competition. This year’s theme is “Happiness in Nature.”

The competition is open to all children. Class teachers will provide application forms to those who express an interest. Full rules and guidelines for artwork are included on the application forms.

Completed entries should be returned to school, where they will be collected by the Rotary Club. The winners will be announced and presented with awards at a special ceremony on Friday 27th February 2026.

This is a wonderful chance for our pupils to showcase their creativity and celebrate the joy and beauty of the natural world.

### **Reminder: Rotary Stars – Ashby Rotary Club**

We are excited to announce that Donisthorpe Primary School is taking part in the Rotary Stars initiative, in partnership with the Ashby Rotary Club. This award recognises children who demonstrate good citizenship, kindness, community spirit, or notable personal achievement.

We invite parents to get in touch if you feel your child has shown something special—perhaps helping others, showing resilience, supporting the community, or going above and beyond. Children are also welcome to share with us directly how they feel they are being a Rotary Star.

Once nominations are received, the Rotary Club will prepare personalised certificates and will join us in a future assembly to present the awards and celebrate the children’s achievements.

This is a fantastic opportunity to highlight and celebrate the positive contributions our pupils make every day, and we look forward to recognising our very first Rotary Stars this term!

### **Reminder: Apply for a School Place – Primary**

The deadline for applying for a Primary School place is 15th January 2026. For both applications, visit: <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.

Regards,



Jamie Williamson  
Headteacher