



Newsletter

Positive Ambitious Nurturing

Monday 12th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As my first newsletter of 2026, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy New Year and I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas period... although it feels like a long time ago now!

The children have made a fantastic start back to school, and it was lovely to see so many happy, smiling faces last Monday for our whole-school Wellbeing Day. Year 6

have thrown themselves enthusiastically into their new roles as Sustainability Heroes, and our EYFS children enjoyed their first winter "Wellie Walk Wednesday," giving them a weekly opportunity to develop their communication and language skills while exploring the outdoors and enjoying nature.



I would also like to thank everyone for their understanding and support last week when we were forced to close due to the snowy and icy weather. While we always aim to stay open, I hope families managed to enjoy some quality time together in the snow. It was wonderful to see the photos you shared of snowmen, sledging, and snowy adventures!

We have lots to look forward to this term, including a visit from ex-Lioness Jess Clarke (which the children are very excited about), water workshops from Severn Trent Water, our Year 4/5/6 Young Voices trip this week, Safer Internet Day, and—of course—plenty of exciting learning.



Punctuality Reminder

Over the last few weeks, we have noticed an increasing number of children arriving late to school in the mornings. This can be unsettling for children and makes it harder for them to enjoy a smooth start to the school day with their peers.

We open the school doors at 8.30am and close them at 8.45am, giving a 15-minute flexible dropping-off window to help families get children to school on time. The first 20 minutes of the school day are particularly important because they help children settle in, catch up with friends, set

a positive tone for learning, and allow teachers to focus on key activities such as morning routines, phonics, or early literacy and numeracy tasks. It is also a crucial time for children to work with teachers to address misconceptions from previous lessons, ensuring they start the day confident and ready to learn.

We will always give children a pleasant welcome into school and we understand sometimes lateness is unavoidable, but I strongly encourage all families to ensure their children are here for the start of the school day. Please remember that teachers often focus on some of the most important learning at the very start of the day, as research shows this is when children are most alert and receptive.

Even just 10 minutes late each day adds up to over 30 hours of learning missed across the school year, so arriving on time really does make a difference!

SATS Meeting

SATs week for our current Year 6 children will take place from Monday 11th May 2025 with the last test being on Thursday 14th May. I would like to invite Year 6 parents to a meeting regarding SATS on **Wednesday 4th February at 6pm** in the school hall, where Mrs Hughes and I can give information on the tests and how the week runs for children.

Assemblies

Last week, children were very excited when we learned about Jess Clarke and her visit to Donisthorpe. This week, we have been looking at the kind gesture of a man in Liverpool who opened his chip shop to everyone on Christmas Day, providing free food for the elderly, vulnerable and lonely. Children talked about what we can learn about kindness from him, and identified that he represented our school value of nurturing well.



Jess Clarke Visit



Thank you to those of you who have already returned some sponsor money for the ActivKids event, where Jess Clarke will visit us on **Friday 23rd January**. Children are looking forward to the event and we appreciate any sponsorship money that you can spare for the event; please ensure it is **returned to school by Tuesday 20th January** to ensure prizes can be sorted for those eligible. All children should come to school in PE kit this day, ready to take part in the sponsored event.

Welcome Back

Miss Dennis has returned to school after maternity leave today, to begin her new role as Deputy Headteacher and SENCO. Miss Dennis will work two days a week until the Summer term, when she will be in school in her new role for four days per week. Please say hello to Miss Dennis if you see her out and about on the school gate.

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 or 0116 305 6684.

Regards,



Jamie Williamson
Headteacher