



Newsletter

Positive Ambitious Nurturing

Friday 14th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another busy and enjoyable fortnight at Donisthorpe, and I'm so pleased to see how hard the children have continued to work and how much they are enjoying school life.

Our after-school Board Game Club, Curiosity Club, Gymnastics Club, and Dodgeball Club are now up and running, and our new EYFS Lunchtime Storytelling Club has also begun. Yesterday saw the first gathering of our Young Voices Choir, who will continue rehearsing every Thursday lunchtime as they prepare for their exciting event later in the year. We'll be sharing information soon about how parents can access the Young Voices parent portal.



This week we have also been marking Anti-Bullying Week across the school. Key Stage 2 children took part in a special assembly and a live online lesson on Monday, while all classes have been exploring the theme throughout the week, creating and agreeing to our school Anti-Bullying Charter. On Monday, children wore odd socks to raise awareness and celebrate the importance of kindness and individuality.

A huge thank you as well to everyone who donated to Children in Need today during our non-uniform "Dress To Make You Happy" day. It's been lovely to see so much colour, creativity, and enthusiasm around school!

Over the past few weeks, I've also had the pleasure of visiting lessons across the school. It's been a real privilege to see our children's fantastic learning in action — behaviour has been excellent, there's a genuine appetite for knowledge, and our teachers continue to do an amazing job. These visits will allow us to develop our practice to ensure the best possible education for your children.



Staffing Update

At the end of this term, we will be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Heath, who will be leaving her role as SENDCo at Donisthorpe Primary School.

Mrs Heath has been a valued member of our team, and her dedication to supporting children with special educational needs and their families has made a real and lasting difference to our school community. Her knowledge, professionalism, and care have been greatly appreciated by staff, children, and parents alike — I am sure many parents who have worked with Mrs Heath will agree.

We are incredibly proud of the way our school supports children with SEND and how inclusive our community is, and Mrs Heath has played a huge part in helping us achieve this. Her commitment to ensuring every child can thrive has had a lasting impact on both children and staff.

We would like to thank Mrs Heath sincerely for everything she has contributed during her time at Donisthorpe and wish her every success and happiness for the future — she will be greatly missed.

We will share an update with parents regarding the SENDCo role and future arrangements very soon, to ensure a smooth transition and continued support for our children.

Assemblies

In last week's assemblies, we revisited our school values and talked about what it really means to be positive, ambitious, and nurturing. I have challenged the children to come to our next assembly ready to share examples of how they have shown these values — either in school or at home. I'm confident this won't be a difficult challenge, as our children demonstrate these qualities every day, often without even realising it.

On Tuesday, the whole school came together for our Remembrance Assembly. I was incredibly proud of how respectfully all our children observed the two-minute silence. It was also wonderful to see some of our Donisthorpe pupils taking part in the Remembrance Parade in Ashby on Sunday, representing their Scout and Guide groups so thoughtfully.



First Aid Sessions – Friday 21st November

Next Friday, children in Years 2 to 6 will have the opportunity to practice first aid, thanks to one of our fantastic parents who works for On Hand Training and Security.



This qualified first aider will run practical sessions throughout the day, giving children the chance to learn vital skills that tie in with our PSHE curriculum. It's a wonderful opportunity, and we feel very lucky to have this expertise shared with our pupils.

If any other parents are able to volunteer their time to teach our children important life skills, we would love to hear from you!

Open Classroom – Friday 21st November, 2.45–3.30pm



We are delighted to invite parents to our Open Classroom session on Thursday 21st November from 2.45–3.30pm.

Parents are welcome to drop in at any time during this session. It's a wonderful opportunity for your children to share their learning with you and talk about what they've been doing in class. It's especially useful for parents whose children, like mine, sometimes struggle to talk about their school day around the dinner table – we promise their days are filled with learning!

Please make a member of staff aware when you leave with your child to ensure a smooth and safe end to the session. We look forward to welcoming you and seeing the fantastic learning happening across the school.

Jess Clarke Athlete Visit

We are excited to let you know that on Friday 23rd January, Jess Clarke, former Lioness and England footballer who has played for Leeds United and Liverpool, will be visiting Donisthorpe Primary School to host a special fundraising event for our children.

During the day, Jess will lead children through a fun and challenging fitness circuit, followed by an inspirational assembly and Q&A. She will discuss the importance of healthy eating, exercise, and share insights from her football career.

The event is being provided by ActivKids UK, who will encourage children to collect sponsorship for taking part in the fitness circuit. Sponsorship money will be split so that 60% goes directly back to our school to support school projects, with 40% helping fund ActivKids UK's athlete's training and competitions. Every child will receive a sticker for participating, with additional prizes available.

This is a fantastic opportunity to inspire our children to be active, develop fitness skills, and hear from a real-life England footballer — all while raising funds for the school and supporting upcoming athletes.

Further information, including sponsorship forms, will be sent home in the coming weeks.



Teams 4U Christmas Shoe Box Appeal



Once again, Donisthorpe Primary School is proud to support the Teams 4U Christmas Shoe Box Appeal.

Teams 4U is a charity that supports communities, young people, and children experiencing poverty and the effects of war. Since 2012, their "Give Love in a Box" campaign has delivered Christmas shoe boxes filled with treats and essentials to children and families across Europe and the UK.

Each shoe box should be wrapped in Christmas paper and filled according to the suggestions for age and gender provided in the leaflet (available from the school office) or on the Teams 4U website. The leaflet and website also include guidance on items that cannot be included.

Donisthorpe is acting as a local drop-off point this year, so please consider getting involved to help make a child's Christmas extra special — your generosity can truly make a difference!

Last collection date for boxes is Friday 21st November.

For more information, please visit: <https://teams4u.com/shoebox-appeal/>



Warm Clothes Reminder

It looks like it could be a really cold one next week! As we move towards the colder months, please ensure that your child comes to school with a warm and waterproof coat and additional layers to keep them comfortable throughout the day.

This is especially important on PE days, when children wear their PE kit to school and may spend time outside. Thank you for helping us keep the children warm and prepared for all weathers!

Uniform Support

A reminder to parents that we have some donated items of uniform, particularly for younger children. This can be a helpful way to save money, especially with Christmas approaching.

If you would like to take a look to see if there is anything you can use, please speak to me and I will be happy to help.

Reminder: Year 1 Phonics Workshop

Parents of Year 1 children are warmly invited to a Phonics Workshop on Tuesday 25th November at 5.00pm. The session will provide information about the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check, along with practical ideas to help you support your child's phonics learning at home. We hope many of you will be able to join us — it's a great opportunity to learn more about how we teach early reading skills and how you can make phonics fun and effective at home.

Reminder: Donisthorpe Book Swap – Friday 28th November

Following the success of our World Book Day Book Swap earlier this year, we are excited to be running another Donisthorpe Book Swap on Friday 28th November. Children are encouraged to bring in any books from home (in good condition) that they no longer want. These will then be swapped at our Book Swap Market in the school hall, giving every child the chance to take home some "new to them" books to enjoy — and giving parents a handy opportunity for a clear out at the same time

Reminder: Apply for a School Place – Primary

The deadline for applying for a Primary School place is **15th January 2026**. For 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

Could your child be eligible for Pupil Premium funding?

At Donisthorpe Primary School, we are committed to making sure this funding provides meaningful support for every child who is entitled to it.

Are you eligible?

Your child may qualify if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (not Working Tax Credit, and income \leq £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after stopping Work Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit – with household income (after tax, excluding benefits) of less than £7,400 per year

How could it benefit your child?

- Extra funding for school trips
- Enrichment opportunities
- Wellbeing support
- Free school meals in Year 3+
- Uniform support

Apply today!

If you think your child may be entitled, please contact the office or visit:

www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals Your application is confidential and could make a big difference to your child's education and the opportunities they receive.

Scan the QR code to apply!



Together, we can give every child the best start!