



Newsletter

Positive Ambitious Nurturing

Friday 23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy couple of weeks in school, filled with lots of fantastic learning and memorable experiences for our children. There was a real buzz of excitement today as former Lioness, Jess Clarke, came to visit. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a circuit event led by Jess, followed by an inspiring assembly. I would like to thank parents once again for their generous donations – it really does highlight the kindness and generosity of our school community, which we are extremely grateful for.



Children in Years 4, 5 and 6, along with their parents, had a wonderful time at Young Voices last week, creating memories that will last a lifetime. These year groups were also visited by Severn Trent, who led engaging, hands-on water



workshops that the children thoroughly enjoyed. I was also delighted to see our Year 6 children taking their new Sustainability Heroes job very seriously, visiting younger children around the school to deliver lessons on how to help the planet. Year 6 did a great job and their passion for this subject shone through!



I have been especially impressed by the learning taking place across EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2. While showing a number of visitors around school recently, it was lovely to hear them all comment on how engaged, happy and polite our children are – something we can all be very proud of. Finally, eight of our excellent mathematicians did our school proud when they represented us at the Symphony Learning Trust maths competition.



Mid-Year Reports

Ahead of Parents' Evening, short mid-year reports will be sent home outlining your child's attainment, behaviour, attitude to learning and attendance. This year, these will be shared via email using our new Insight tracking system, rather than being sent home on paper. This change will help us to reduce paper use and ensure reports are received promptly by parents and carers.

Please look out for these on **Friday 6th February**. If you experience any issues receiving your child's report, do let us know and we will be happy to help. These reports will form a useful starting point for discussions at Parents' Evening.

Easter Service

Our Easter Service will take place on **Wednesday 25th March at St John's Church**. Children in **EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2** will be preparing short performances to help us celebrate Easter together.



Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us. The service will begin **at 9:30am** and should last no longer than 30 minutes. We look forward to sharing this special celebration with you.

Assemblies

In recent assemblies, children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 have been learning about how no two snowflakes are ever the same. We explored how snowflakes are formed through different, unique journeys to the ground and linked this idea to people – highlighting that we are all different and each on our own individual journey.

Key Stage 2 took part in an assembly which focused on how to handle disagreements during games on the playground. There was a strong emphasis on mature approaches such as compromise and understanding that good friends can sometimes need time apart. The children discussed how disagreements are a normal part of relationships and can still exist within healthy friendships.

All year groups also shared a powerful story about a man who does not celebrate Christmas but chose to open his chip shop on Christmas Day to provide free food and company for those who were vulnerable or lonely. This linked closely to our school value of nurturing, prompting thoughtful discussion about kindness, empathy and looking out for others.



Road Safety and Parking

As always, we would like to remind everyone to be mindful of our neighbours, pedestrians and other road users during busy drop-off and pick-up times. We know these are particularly busy times and that many families travel from outside the village, but it is important that we park considerately and safely, and do not block private drives.

Where possible, please consider parking a little further away and walking the rest of the way, or even walking the whole journey to school. Small changes like this help to keep our children, families and local community safe.

Is Your Child Eligible for Pupil Premium Funding?

Some families may be eligible for Pupil Premium funding, which provides valuable support for children at school. This can include free school meals and milk, and may also help with the cost of school trips, clubs and other educational activities.

You may qualify if you, or your child's family, receive certain benefits, including:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (without Working Tax Credit)

Even if you do not wish to claim free school meals, applying is still really important. Every eligible child brings extra funding to the school to support learning, and once awarded, this funding lasts for six years, even if your circumstances change. This could even help with funding towards trips and resources for your child.

If you think you may be eligible, or if your circumstances have recently changed, we strongly encourage you to apply online. For more information on how to apply, please contact the school office.

New Bikes - Thank You!

Thank you again for all of your generous donations as part of last academic year's sponsored bounce event. Our brand new bikes and bike shed for EYFS and Key Stage 1 have arrived this week – we can't wait until they're assembled (thanks Mr Evans!) and in use. We expect them to have such a positive impact on our youngest children's physical development and wellbeing!

Reminder: SATS Meeting

SATs week for our current Year 6 children will take place from Monday 11th May 2026 with the last test being on Thursday 14th May 2026. 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 you information on the tests and how the week runs for children.



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!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Williamson', written in a cursive style.

Jamie Williamson
Headteacher