



Newsletter

Positive Ambitious Nurturing

Friday 27th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,



I hope everyone had a wonderful half-term! It has been lovely to welcome the children back, especially with a little bit of nicer weather. The children have been making the most of this at lunchtimes, enjoying the playground and playing with our lunchtime equipment. It has been fantastic to see how quickly the children have settled back into our high expectations of behaviour, attitude and effort.

The week before half-term was a busy one across the school, with all classes focusing on Safer Internet Day and Children's Mental Health Week, alongside their usual hard work in all subjects.

In EYFS and Year 1, the children have been enjoying our brand-new bikes — a huge thank you to everyone who donated to our sponsored bounce, which made this possible. These bikes will help our children develop essential physical skills, coordination and confidence, while also promoting fitness, balance and social skills.



I was also incredibly proud of our Year 4 children, who recently performed a ukulele concert for parents. They were confident and skilled, and it was wonderful to see how much progress they have made since starting lessons in September.

Reach More Parents by Weduc

Thank you for your support this week as we have moved over to Reach More Parents by Weduc messaging service. Over the next few weeks, we will continue to send all communication via email to ensure that everyone is fully set up with the app.

If you notice any issues, such as not being linked to your child correctly when setting up the app, please get in touch with Mrs Webb in the school office, who will be happy to help.

PTFA Events

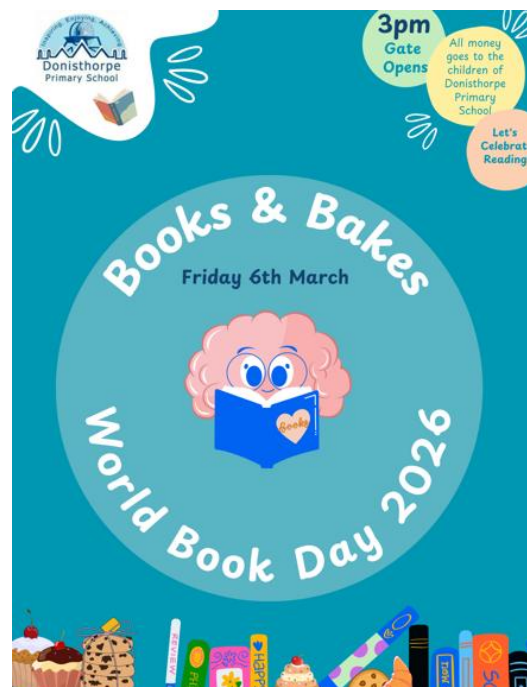
PTFA Books and Bakes – Friday 6th March (part of our World Book Day celebrations)

PTFA will be selling books and baked goods on the playground at the end of the school day. We will open the school gates at 3pm for parents (children will leave classrooms at the usual end-of-day time). Cash or card are accepted as payment.

PTFA 'Celebrate The Superwoman In Your Life' Pop-Up Store – Friday 13th March

PTFA will come into school to set up a pop-up store where children can buy gifts in preparation for Mother's Day. Children will be able to visit the shop during the afternoon, with gifts starting from £1. If you would like your child to take part, **please send any money into school in a named envelope, placed inside your child's school bag.** This helps us to return it safely if it is misplaced. Children will need to keep their money inside their bags, as we are unfortunately unable to take responsibility for storing it.

As always, I would like to thank our fabulous PTFA, who do so much to raise money for our children.



Assemblies

Before half term, we held a range of whole-school assemblies, including one from Miss Dennis for Children's Mental Health Week, a Safer Internet Day assembly, and our usual Special Mentions, celebrating children who have impressed their teachers in many ways – always a tough but rewarding job! We also recognised our weekly Donisthorpe Stars, who consistently show The Donisthorpe Way and set fantastic examples for others.

This week, Mr Williamson has led assemblies with Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 focused on our school values – positive, ambitious, nurturing – and continued our Everyone Belongs series. Children have explored different protected characteristics, why it's important these are respected, and some of the challenges people with these characteristics have faced historically.

World Book Day

We're really looking forward to celebrating World Book Day in school on Friday 6th March (a day later than the official date on 5th March). It's going to be a fantastic day full of reading, creativity, and fun!

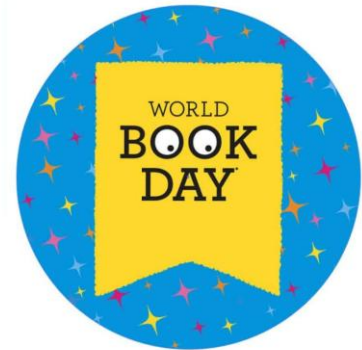
Key things to remember:

Potato Book Character Challenge: Bring your completed potato character to school on Friday 6th March if you would like to participate.

Book Swap: Bring a book (or books) in good condition to swap for a new one.

Dress Up/Non-Uniform: Come as a favourite book character or in comfy clothes perfect for reading.

Ready, Steady, Read! Don't forget the sponsored reading challenge runs 2nd–8th March. Track your reading and help your class become Class Champions!



We can't wait for a day full of stories, imagination, and fun!

Attendance Letters

Attendance at Donisthorpe is broadly good and close to the national average, and we are always working to make it even better. Being at school as much as possible is important for children's learning, though we understand that sometimes absence is unavoidable.

Over the next week, I will be sending letters to parents of children whose attendance is 90% or below (persistent absenteeism according to the DfE) and those below 95% (at risk of persistent absenteeism). These letters are mainly for families I haven't yet had a chance to speak to regarding attendance and are simply to keep you informed – they are not meant to judge. If you feel we can support you in improving attendance, please get in touch – we are here to help.

Red Nose Day – Friday 20th March

Red Nose Day takes place on Friday 20th March this year and as always, we would love to join in fundraising across the country. This year, children are encouraged to "**Dress to Make Us Laugh**" – wear silly clothes, crazy hairstyles, or fun accessories for a suggested donation of £1 (or more if you can spare it!).

We know this will not be all children's idea of fun (and that's ok!) so for children who prefer something more low-key, **comfortable non-uniform can also be worn** for a donation. I'm looking forward to seeing all the smiles and silliness while supporting this great cause!



A note from PCSO Emma Ramsey

Many of you will have noticed, or even spoken with, PCSO Emma Ramsey over the past several weeks during drop-off and pick-up times. She has been in the area responding to concerns from residents and parents about road safety at these busy times. Please see a message from Emma below:

Leicestershire Police are reminding parents and carers to park safely and considerately around our local schools, particularly during busy drop-off and pick-up times.

Please remember:

Don't park on school zig-zags.

Keep pavements, driveways, and junctions clear.

Avoid stopping in the road to drop children off.

Drive slowly and patiently.

Your cooperation keeps children safe. We're asking all parents to make safe parking a daily habit—set a good example, plan a few extra minutes, and help us protect our school community.

Officers from the local beat team will continue regular patrols

Trim Trail use at the end of the day

As the weather has begun to improve (fingers crossed it continues), we have seen a number of children are using the trim trail at the end of the school day. We are pleased to see children enjoying our trim trail but please make sure that your child is supervised during this time. Please leave the playground by the time the playground gate is locked at 3.25pm so that the after school clubs can come outside to use the playground.



Bike Shed Use

We kindly remind parents and children to use the bike shed respectfully. Please supervise your child when dropping off or collecting scooters and bikes, and encourage them to look after their own and others' property. Being mindful of other children's belongings helps keep the bike shed safe and organised for everyone.

Relish Vacancies

Please see information below.

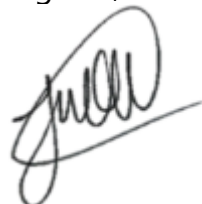
A recruitment poster for Relish School Food. The background is a dark chalkboard. In the top left corner is the 'Relish!' logo, which is a red speech bubble with the word 'Relish!' in white cursive. The main text 'JOIN Our TEAM!' is written in large, white, chalk-like capital letters. To the right of 'Our' is a white chalk drawing of a pencil. Below the main text, there is a block of white text: 'WE HAVE A NUMBER OF VACANCIES TO JOIN OUR TEAM WITHIN THE ASHBY AREA. 10-15 HOURS PER WEEK. CONTACT SARAHMELBOURNE@RELISHSCHOOLFOOD.CO.UK'. In the bottom right corner, there is a photograph of a red apple, a pink highlighter, and several colored pencils (yellow, green, blue) in a holder.

Relish!

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Regards,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads 'Jamie Williamson'.

Jamie Williamson
Headteacher