



# Newsletter

Positive Ambitious Nurturing

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't quite believe that I'm saying this already but I've started to hear Christmas songs drifting from classrooms—it looks like Years 1 and 2 are already beginning their nativity practice! This officially means that Christmas is upon us.

Over the past few weeks, I've continued to visit lessons across the school and it has been a real joy to see so many children fully engaged in their learning. From practical science investigations to creative writing, the enthusiasm and curiosity on display have been fantastic.



We have also been celebrating some exciting achievements outside the classroom. Our Year 6 dodgeball team put in a tremendous effort at the competition held at Ashby School on Tuesday, demonstrating great teamwork and sportsmanship. I'm extremely proud to share that they won the Spirit of the Game award—a testament to their positive attitude and fair play.

Last week, children had the opportunity to take part in hands-on first aid training delivered by On Hand Training and Security. Several parents have already reported that their children have put what they learned into practice at home—what a wonderful example of practical learning making a real difference!

Year 2 pupils have also been out and about in Donisthorpe, gathering inspiration and details to prepare their 'Come and Visit Donisthorpe' leaflets in English. Thank you to all the Year 2 parent helpers who assisted with the local visit.

I would also like to thank everyone who attended our open classroom event last week – children clearly loved showing off their hard work to you!



## **Assemblies**

Our assemblies this term have continued to focus on The Donisthorpe Way and our school values: positive, ambitious, nurturing.

In Key Stage 1 and EYFS, children heard a real-life story of a young boy who shared his joy at winning a race by allowing others to share his winners' podium—demonstrating kindness, fairness, and community spirit.

Key Stage 2 pupils explored stories of friendship and courage in the face of injustice. One story highlighted how a shared love of Birmingham City football helped two friends confront and tackle racism in the 1960s (I also shared this story with Key Stage 1). Another example showed how people on a New York train came together to remove hateful graffiti, highlighting the power of community action and standing up for what is right.

## **Online Safety Concerns**

As we move through to the spring term, I would like to take a moment to remind all families about the importance of supporting children to stay safe online. Many of our older pupils use WhatsApp – and many other apps - to chat with friends outside school. While these can be a positive way to stay in touch, we are becoming increasingly aware of upsetting interactions happening within some of these groups.



I must express my worry: several incidents have been brought to our attention where unkind, disrespectful or unsafe messages have been shared. These situations can cause real distress for children, and they can escalate quickly. We strongly encourage all parents to regularly check the online spaces their children are part of, talk with them about the importance of kindness and respect, and help them understand the responsibility that comes with being part of group chats.

Online safety is something we take extremely seriously; if we hear of any child being unsafe or unkind online, we will always alert parents to our concerns.

Across the school, every year group is taught six dedicated online-safety units, and it forms a key part of The Donisthorpe Way. We also highly recommend that all parents read our weekly Wake Up Wednesday bulletin, which we share as part of our ongoing work to keep families informed about current online trends, risks and practical advice.

Below are some helpful places parents can go for additional guidance and support:

### **NSPCC – Online Safety Advice for Parents**

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

### **Childnet – Parent & Carer Toolkit**

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/>

### **Internet Matters – Guides for Age-Appropriate Safety Settings**

<https://www.internetmatters.org>

## **UK Safer Internet Centre – Latest Tips & Reporting Tools**

<https://saferinternet.org.uk>

## **CEO Education – Advice and Guidance for Parents & Schools**

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/>

### **Introducing 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!

### **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.

## **Warm Clothes**

As the colder months continue, please ensure that your child comes to school dressed warmly and with a suitable coat. When the temperature is particularly low, we will ask all children to put on their coats when they go outside.

We understand that children may warm up as they run and play and may choose to remove their coats. However, if we notice any child showing visible signs of being cold, we will ask them to put their coat back on and wrap up warmly.

Your support in sending children prepared for cold weather helps ensure that everyone stays safe and comfortable while enjoying outdoor activities.



## **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](mailto:admissions@leics.gov.uk) or 0116 305 6684.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Williamson'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jamie Williamson  
Headteacher