

Donisthorpe Primary School Newsletter

Ambitious Nurturing Positive



Friday 3rd May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

The summer term is flying by- I can't believe that we only have 45 school days left before the summer holidays! We have so much to fit in including, sports day, move up days and the Spring Fair.

It's great to see children happy and working hard across the school this week. Outside in this glorious weather, Year 4 enjoyed their well-earned treat and EYFS children are on a mud hunt!

The weather has definitely been warmer this week so we will be trying to make sure that the children continue to make the most of our grounds, learning outside as much as possible.



Be Respectful

One of our new school rules is 'be respectful', but what does this mean for our children?

1. To speak respectfully...for example:

- Speaking politely;
- Thinking before you speak;
- Speaking when it is appropriate to do so;
- Keeping 'street language' out of school.
- Speaking to members of our community as you would like to be spoken to.



2. To behave respectfully...for example:

- Doing as you are asked;
- Listening carefully and following instructions;
- Respecting other children's space;
- Telling a member of staff if there is a problem with another child.
- Treating members of our community as you would like to be treated.

3. To respect the school environment...for example:

- Putting rubbish in bins – in and out of the classroom;
- Looking after and having pride in your classroom;
- Reporting any damage to a member of staff;
- Making sure you are in the right place at the right time;
- Keeping the school site safe.



4. To have respect for your own learning...for example:

- Valuing success;
- Doing the work to the best of your ability;
- Asking for help if you need it;
- Knowing what you need to do to improve;

5. To have respect for other students' learning...for example:

- Valuing other people's ideas, values, work and contributions;
- Co-operating with and supporting others;
- Helping to create a positive learning environment.

We recognise that each individual child is at a different stage of social learning. Through a consistent approach to supporting their behaviour will we be able to achieve an environment in which children can learn and develop as caring and responsible people.

Attendance

Thank you to everyone for supporting our Attendance Policy and making sure that every school day counts for your child. Your support really is appreciated and if we can help you in any way to increase your child's attendance then please don't hesitate to contact school.

Keeping your child safe online

A recent survey by 'Childwise' showed that mobile phone ownership and usage has significantly increased among children between the ages of 5-10 with most children now phone owners by the age of seven! With this increase more children of all ages are using their phones to access the internet, increasingly from their own room or when they are out and about. More than half admit to 'always sleeping with their mobile next to the bed' – and say they wouldn't know what to do if they lost their device. The report states that 'Mobile phones have won over tablet computers and now dominate children's lives with 47% of 5 to 10-year olds now owning a mobile, up from 38% last year. This year, young children have increasing access to mobile phones means that average daily usage among 7-10 year olds has gone up by almost an hour a day.' With these statistics it is more important than ever that we work together to keep our children safe online.

In school and at home, we encourage open conversations with your children about what they do/look at on their phones and to ensure that they know to report anything that they see that is unwanted or worrying. Please see the poster at the end of this newsletter for **10 tips to keep your children safe online**.

You can find more help and advice on our school website.

Break time snacks

As a 'Healthy School' we aim to promote healthy eating with the children. All children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with free fruit each day to eat during morning break. Children in other year groups are encouraged to bring fruit as a snack for morning break.



Starting secondary school

Starting secondary school is a significant milestone in a child's life. It marks a passage into adolescence and brings about several significant changes. They will go from being the oldest in school to being the youngest, having to find their way around a large new school with different teachers for different subjects. They will also have to take more responsibility, such as:

- Planning for each day's timetable
- Making sure they have the right books and equipment

- Doing homework most evenings

All of this will have to fit into your child's new routine, alongside their other interests and the often-daunting prospect of becoming a teenager. It can take time for children to adjust to these new responsibilities.

Getting ready for secondary school

- Once your child has been offered place, be sure to attend the open evening events together
- Shop for uniform/equipment in good time- if this is expensive approach the school for help with the cost
- Talk to your child positively about the change to offer them reassurance
- Travel the route to the new school together a few times so that it becomes familiar, contact the school for information on school buses
- If you are on social media, follow the school page for updates



Remember, if you have any questions, please talk to a member of SLT on the gate, phone school or email office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sylvie Newman".

Sylvie Newman
Executive Headteacher



ONLINE CONTENT

10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.



1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.



2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT

Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.



3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS

Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.



4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.



5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP

Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.



6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE

Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.



7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.



8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK

Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.



9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

If a child sees distressing material online; listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.



10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT

If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.



2023-2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please find below dates for this academic year- we have tried to include as much information as possible here! This information will be added to the biweekly newsletter and will also be available on the school website. newsletter and will also be available on the school website.



6 May	School closed for Bank Holiday	All day
9 May	Year 5 Forest School Hicks Lodge	
13 May	Year 6 SATS week	
17 May	Year 6 Forest School Hicks Lodge	
23 May	PTFA Spring Fair	3.15-4.30
24 May	School closes for Half Term	3.15pm
May Half term		
3 Jun	School reopens for children	8.30am
3 Jun	Year 4 Multiplication check window	
10 Jun	Year 4 Multiplication check window	
10 Jun	Year 1 phonics check week begins	
12 Jun	Saffron Lane- NWLSSP sporting event, selected KS2 children TBC	
14 Jun	Sports Day- School field refreshments provided by the PTFA	1.00pm
26 Jun	Ashby School Induction Day for Year 6	
27 Jun	Reserve Date for Sports Day- in case of wet weather	1.00pm
3 Jul	End of Year Reports out to parents	
4 Jul	In school move up morning EYFS to Year 5	am
4 Jul	Open Afternoon to look at books and discuss reports	3.15pm-4.15pm
5 Jul	Year 6 Leavers performance	2.00pm
8 Jul	Year 6 Drayton Manor Reward Trip	All day
9 Jul	Year 6 Leavers Lunch	
9 Jul	Last day of the school year	
Summer Break- have a wonderful Summer!		
27 Aug	School reopens for children	8.30am