



# Newsletter

Positive Ambitious Nurturing

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe it is another fortnight since my last newsletter – the weeks certainly are flying by and this has been another few weeks with lots of excellent learning taking place across all year groups. Our Year 6 children have been tackling practice SATs, approaching them with a consistently positive attitude and achieving well. We are extremely proud of the focus, resilience and maturity they continue to show as they prepare for the months ahead.



Year 4 have had a particularly busy and enjoyable time, making biscuits as part of their latest Design and Technology unit. The children worked carefully and enthusiastically, producing some excellent results. They also enjoyed a well-deserved treat afternoon. Years 3 and Year 2 have also been working hard to fill their behaviour and effort jars, earning their own treat afternoons, where they enjoyed watching films together. In EYFS, children have continued to enjoy their Welly Walk Wednesdays,

embracing the outdoors whatever the weather.

We were pleased to welcome Severn Trent Water into school, who led engaging and hands-on workshops with children in Year 4 and Year 6. The sessions were both informative and enjoyable, and the children had great fun while learning more about water, sustainability and how we can all play our part in protecting this vital resource.



We were also proudly represented by some fantastic athletes at last weekend's cross country event. Our children showed great determination and sportsmanship throughout, and they truly did our school proud.

As always, it has been a real pleasure to wander around school and see our children so focused, engaged and enthusiastic about their learning.

## Staffing News

We are very pleased to let you know that Miss Harvey will continue teaching Year 3 for the Summer term. Miss Dennis, who was originally due to return, will now be focusing on her new role as SENDCO and Deputy Headteacher, supporting the wider school.

Miss Harvey has been a valuable member of the team, fitting in brilliantly at Donisthorpe and making a huge, positive impact on Year 3 already. Your children will continue to be taught by Mrs Rundlett and Miss Harvey, providing consistency and a strong learning environment for the term ahead.

## Children's Mental Health Week

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week, an important opportunity to focus on mental health and wellbeing across the school. Throughout the week, children will take part in assemblies and class discussions exploring what we mean by mental health, why it is important, and how it affects us all.

In class, children will be encouraged to talk about ways they can look after their own mental health and wellbeing. We will discuss simple, practical strategies that can help children feel calmer, happier and more able to cope, including:

- being active and taking regular exercise
- spending time outdoors and enjoying fresh air and nature
- talking about worries or feelings with a trusted adult or friend
- taking breaks from screens and enjoying time away from devices
- getting enough sleep and having a regular routine
- taking time to relax, be creative or enjoy hobbies they love
- showing kindness to others and themselves

To mark Children's Mental Health Week, **on Friday children are invited to come to school in their own clothes**, wearing whatever makes them feel most happy and comfortable. During the afternoon, we will be holding **a dedicated wellbeing afternoon**, where we will down tools, pause our usual lessons and take time to slow down. Activities will focus on relaxation, reflection, creativity and enjoying time together in a calm and supportive way.

We would also like to remind families that if a child is struggling with their mental health or wellbeing, they do not have to face this alone. Please encourage your child to talk to a trusted adult, and do not hesitate to contact school if you have any concerns — we are always here to listen and to help.

For parents and carers who may find it helpful, the following websites offer advice and support around children's mental health and wellbeing:

**YoungMinds** – guidance for children and parents on emotional wellbeing and support for young people and families: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

**Place2Be** – a UK children's mental health charity offering information and resources, including free Children's Mental Health Week materials: <https://www.place2be.org.uk/>



**Children’s Mental Health Week resources** – official downloadable resources and activity ideas for schools and families: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

**NHS Every Mind Matters – Children’s mental health** – practical tips for supporting your child’s wellbeing and knowing when to seek help: <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/childrens-mental-health/>

### **Safer Internet Day**

Next Tuesday we’ll be joining schools and communities across the UK to mark **Safer Internet Day 2026**, a global event that helps children and young people learn how to use the internet and technology safely, responsibly and confidently. This year’s theme is “**Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use**

**of AI**” — focusing on how everyday technology like voice assistants and AI tools can be used positively, and how children can make good choices online.



In school, children will take part in age-appropriate activities and lessons to explore this theme. Teachers will use a range of free resources from the UK Safer Internet Centre designed to promote thoughtful discussion and safe online behaviours with every year group. KS2 children will also be able to access a *live online lesson* via the BBC Teach website at 11 am on the day (details shared in class). Please encourage your child to share what they’ve learned!

At home, you might like to continue the conversation by asking about their activities, what they found interesting, and how they make safe choices online. As always, we encourage families to be aware of children’s online activities and to talk regularly about the games, apps, websites and tools they use — online safety is something we revisit every half-term in school and is so important in children’s everyday lives.

For parents and carers, the following websites offer practical advice and support around online safety that you might find helpful:

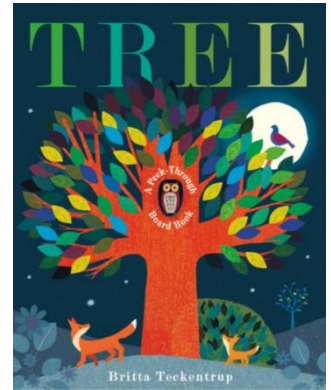
### **Helpful Online Safety Links**

- **UK Safer Internet Centre – Safer Internet Day & Advice for Families:** <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026> (official information and resources)
- **Parents & Carers online safety guidance – UK Safer Internet Centre:** <https://saferinternet.org.uk/parents> (top tips for supporting children online)
- **Parentkind Online Safety Toolkit:** <https://www.parentkind.org.uk/online-safety-toolkit> (practical tips to help families build healthy digital habits)
- **NHS Online Safety Advice for Families:** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-media-and-your-mental-health/> (guidance on digital wellbeing and screens – from the NHS)

We also share **regular Wake Up Wednesday online safety posts**, so please check these for up-to-date tips, ideas and conversation starters you can use at home.

## Assemblies

In assembly last week, Miss Dennis led her first whole-school assembly in her new role, linked to the book 'Tree' by Britta Teckentrup. Many children have already asked to borrow the book and have enjoyed spending their break or lunch times reading it for themselves.



In Key Stage 2, Mr Williamson led an assembly exploring a powerful piece of artwork designed by the LEGO Vice President of Design, created to make a statement about love, acceptance and inclusivity. This linked closely with LGBT+ History Month, giving children the opportunity to learn about the challenges and struggles faced by LGBT+ people in the past, as well as the importance of respect, understanding and equality for all.



We were also delighted to welcome back our friends from the Open the Book team, who led another of their ever-popular assemblies. Through acting out stories from the Bible, they once again engaged the children and brought the messages to life in an accessible and enjoyable way.

## Curriculum Information

You can find lots of information on the curriculum area of our website, from end-of-year expectations for your children to most up-to-date curriculum updates on your child's learning at school and a padlet with further information about particular subjects. Information can be found here: <https://www.donisthorpeprimary.org/our-curriculum.html>

## 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 help or more information, please contact the school office, who will be happy to guide you through the process.

**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