

# Donisthorpe Primary School Newsletter

Ambitious Nurturing Positive



Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Welcome back!

I'm delighted to be writing to you with the first newsletter of the academic year—and my very first as Headteacher at Donisthorpe! Thank you to everyone who has shared kind words, congratulations, and well wishes. As many of you know, I have a deep connection to this school and a genuine love for it. I feel privileged to lead such a dedicated team and such wonderful groups of children.



It has been fantastic to see the children return to school—smiling, full of energy, and just as excited as we are for the year ahead. The building was far too quiet without them! They are already settling in brilliantly, enjoying their new classes, and getting to know their new teachers.

A very special welcome goes to our new children and their families. This year, we are delighted to have 30 new pupils beginning their Donisthorpe journey in EYFS. We're so pleased to have you as part of the Donisthorpe family. In fact, some of our older children have already been asking me when they'll get to play with your little ones on the playground!



## Contact Details

Can I please remind parents and carers to ensure their contact details are kept up-to-date. It is essential that we have relevant information should we need to contact you in case of an emergency. Please get in touch with the office to make any changes.

## Uniform

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers—our children have come back looking so smart and ready to learn in their uniforms. Please do remember to **label all items of clothing**. As you can imagine, things like jumpers, water bottles, and lunch boxes can easily go missing in school, and names make it much easier to return them to the right child.

We also have a small selection of good-quality second-hand uniform available in school. In addition, there are several local venues taking part in the *North West Leicestershire School Uniform Swap Shop* this weekend, offering pre-loved uniform. For more details, please visit: [https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/school\\_uniform\\_swap\\_shops](https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/school_uniform_swap_shops)



## **Attendance Matters!**

At Donisthorpe, we want every child to achieve their very best. Regular attendance is key to this, and we set a target of **97% attendance** across the year. When children miss school, they miss important learning which can leave gaps in their knowledge and confidence.

We understand that sometimes absence is unavoidable—for illness, exceptional circumstances, or religious observance. If you do need to request leave during term time, please complete the form on our website and email it to [office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk) as far in advance as possible.

We are here to support families if attendance becomes difficult. By working together, we can address issues early and help children feel happy and confident about coming to school. Please don't hesitate to contact us at [slt@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk](mailto:slt@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk) if you need advice or support.

As part of the national framework, schools are required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more unauthorised sessions (5 school days) within a rolling 10-week period. These fines are issued by the Local Authority.

## **EYFS parents (2025 intake) Open Evening**

Do you have a child who is due to start school in August 2026? This evening is aimed at giving new parents as much information as possible in order to help them make the right decision. Our Open Evening will take place on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm**.

There will be a short presentation in the hall, followed by a chance to tour our amazing EYFS classroom and talk informally to staff. We will be advertising this event locally, but if you or someone you know is interested in attending, they can book a place by contacting the school office.

## **End of day arrangements**

The end of the school day is always a busy time, and we have procedures in place to make sure all children leave safely:

- EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 – children are released directly from their classroom doors.
- Year 3 and Year 4 – staff bring children out onto the playground before the gates are opened for collection.
- Year 5 and Year 6 – children are released from under the canopy. If they cannot see you, they are asked to wait with a member of staff until you arrive. Children with permission to walk home from school unsupervised will be released without an adult.

For safeguarding reasons, we can only release children to adults named on their emergency contact list. Please be patient while staff get to know faces and families in these first few weeks.

If there is a change to who is collecting your child, or if someone not on the contact list needs to collect them on a one-off occasion, please inform the office at [office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk)

Parents of older children: if you would like your child to begin leaving school independently, please confirm this with the office. (If you have already given permission in the past, you do not need to do so again.)

## **Are you entitled to Free School Meals/Pupil Premium Grant?**

Some families may be eligible for Pupil Premium Grant (PPG). This funding allows us to provide free school meals and milk for your child, and may also help with the cost of school trips and other educational activities.

You may qualify if you receive certain benefits—for example Universal Credit, Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance or Child Tax Credit (without Working Tax Credit).

Even if you don't wish to take up these benefits directly, applying is still really valuable. School receives important extra funding for every eligible child, and once awarded it lasts for six years, even if your circumstances change.

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

### **Everyone Active Partnership**

Great news! Everyone Active will be adopting our school for a month later this year, meaning that our families can enjoy two weeks of free swimming in December (more details to follow) at Ashby or Coalville Leisure Centre. The team will also be visiting soon to deliver water safety assemblies for our EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 classes.



### **Apply for a School Place – Primary/Secondary**

It is fast approaching the time when Year 6 parents need to apply for their secondary school places. To assist you in this, the feeder secondary schools will have open evenings over the coming weeks – see their websites/social media pages or contact schools for details. The deadline for applying for a Secondary School place is **31st October 2025**.

The deadline for applying for a Primary School place is **15th January 2026**. For both 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.

If you have any questions about this or anything else, please telephone school or email [office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk)

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Williamson', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jamie Williamson  
Headteacher