

Donisthorpe Primary School Newsletter

Ambitious Nurturing Positive



Friday 30th August 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! This is the first newsletter of the new academic year here at Donisthorpe. I trust that you have had a lovely summer break and enjoyed spending time with family and friends.



It is wonderful to see the children back at school, smiling and as excited as we all are for the year ahead. The children have already settled in brilliantly and have very much enjoyed time in their classes getting to know their teachers and meeting new friends.

I would like to say a welcome to our new children and their families; we have 28 new children beginning their Donisthorpe journey in EYFS this year. We also have a number of new children across the school, so a warm welcome to you all!

The weather this week has been so lovely, quite a contrast to the summer rain! If it continues into next week, please make sure that children have a hat for outside breaks.

Uniform

A huge thank you to all of our parents and carers, all the children have looked smart and ready to learn in their uniforms. **On outdoor PE days we ask that the children come to school in their correct outdoor PE kit- please see a member of SLT if you are having difficulty sourcing the correct uniform.**

Attendance changes from September 2024

You may have seen in the news that the Department for Education (DfE) have introduced new attendance guidance for schools for managing and supporting school attendance. They have also introduced a new national framework for penalty notices and amended the law. These changes came into effect from the 19th August 2024 and all schools across the country are expected to follow the new statutory guidance. I would like to draw your attention to some of the key information below.



At Donisthorpe School we aim for children to achieve at least 97% attendance for a full school year. There are clear links between poor attendance and poor attainment. If children are absent from school, they may miss key learning opportunities resulting in gaps in their knowledge and understanding. This can significantly impact upon their learning and development. Absence from school should only occur when a

child is too unwell to learn, where there is an exceptional circumstance, or when your child has a day of religious observance.

If you have exceptional circumstances and wish to request a leave of absence during term time, please complete the request form (available in our policy on our website) and email it to office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk as far in advance of the requested leave period as possible.

Support first

The importance of regular attendance at school cannot be stressed enough. We will continue to encourage school attendance and provide support when a child is struggling to attend school. By working with you, the school can step in early to help to prevent patterns of absence developing. We may identify other underlying issues that are making your child reluctant to attend school and be able to help you and your child. For this to be successful we would ask you to support and work with the school.

National framework for penalty notices

To provide consistency, the Government have introduced a new national framework for schools and Local Authorities. All schools are now required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 sessions (5 school days) for unauthorised reasons.

Fines are issued by the Local Authority and with effect from August 2024, the fine for school absences for each parent will be £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days.

In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160.

Fines per parent will be capped at two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.



Term time holidays

Children should not be taken out of school during term time unless it is unavoidable. Schools are required to consider requests for leave of absence in term time. A family holiday is not an acceptable reason for a child to miss school. If a student is absent for 5 days or more then the school is expected to refer the matter for the consideration of a Penalty Notice being issued by the Local Authority.

We are keen to work with you to address any barriers to your child's attendance. If you require any advice or support on this matter, please get in touch with slt@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk and we will do our best to help.

EYFS parents (2025 intake) Open Evening

Do you have a child who is due to start school in September 2025? Choosing your child's school is an important decision. 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 8th 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.

Christmas celebrations!

I know its early by I wanted to make you aware that we are making some changes to the way we celebrate Christmas with our children. Now that the refurbishment of St John's Church is complete all children from Year 1 to Year 6 will celebrate Christmas at a special service at the church. We hope that the reorganisation will give us more space so that we can fit more children in, and more parents can join us! As part of this service, our Year 1 and Year 2 children will perform the nativity- there will not be a separate performance

Our youngest children in EYFS will not join the rest of the school for this event, instead on Friday 13th December, we invite parents to join their children in the hall for Christmas crafts, hot chocolate and some Christmas songs!

End of day arrangements

I thought it might be useful to remind everyone of the arrangements for the end of the day. As you will be aware, this is a very busy time with lots of children and adults on the school site. We have a range of procedures in place to keep the children as safe as possible.

To help the children locate their adults we ask that parents try to stand in the same place each day.

May we kindly ask that once on the playground, please do not wait by the gates as it is crucial that these areas have clear visibility. Please can we remind you to arrive on time to collect your child or let the office know if you are running late, so that a member of staff can be responsible for your child until you arrive

EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 children are released from their classroom doors.

Year 3 and Year 4 staff will bring children out onto the playground before the gates are opened for collection.

Year 5 and Year 6 children will be released from the canopy. If children cannot see you, they should stand by an adult until you arrive.

Teachers/support staff are out by the gates/on the playground at the end of the day, please do not heistate to chat to us you have any questions- or just to introduce yourself!

Are you entitled to Free School Meals?

Children of families in receipt of certain benefits may be eligible for additional funding – Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) - which we can use to provide free school milk and lunches for your child. Support with paying for school trips and other educational activities can be offered by the SLT for pupils in receipt of this funding. Even if you don't wish to take advantage of any of these, school can still claim much needed funding for those who are eligible. Under current rules the funding lasts for 6 years, even if your circumstances change in that time. If you have not already applied, or if your circumstances have changed recently, we would encourage you to check eligibility and apply online. Please contact the school office for more details.

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 – details on their websites. The deadline for applying for a Secondary School place is **31st October 2024**.

The deadline for applying for a Primary School place is **15th January 2025**. For both applications, the simplest way is online at: <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 or 0116 305 6684.

If you have any questions about this or anything else, please telephone school or email office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk

Regards,



Sylvie Newman
Executive Headteacher

2024-2025 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. **New dates will be added in red!**



10 Sept	Forest School Year 6 Hicks Lodge	All day
12 Sept	Year 6 Swimming begins	pm
17 Sept	Forest School Year 5 Hicks Lodge	All day
19 Sept	Year 6 Swimming	pm
20 Sept	Forest School EYFS at school	am
24 Sept	Forest School Year 4 Hicks Lodge	All day
26 Sept	Year 6 Swimming	pm
27 Sept	Forest School EYFS at school	am
1 Oct	Forest School Year 2 at school	All day
3 Oct	Year 6 Swimming	pm
4 Oct	Forest School EYFS at school	am
4 Oct	Forest School Year 1 at school	pm
8 Oct	New EYFS parents 2025 intake Open Evening	6.30pm to 7.30pm
8 Oct	Forest School Year 3 at school	All day
10 Oct	Year 6 Swimming	pm
10 Oct	NHS Immunisations	
11 Oct	Forest School EYFS at school	am
11 Oct	Forest School Year 1 at school	pm
11 Oct	Harvest service at the newly refurbished St John's Church- this will include Year 3//Year 4//Year 5//Year 6 children	9.30am
11 Oct	Settling in reports sent home	
14 Oct	Parents Evening face to face	3.30pm to 7.00pm
16 Oct	Parents Evening face to face	3.30pm to 7.00pm
17 Oct	Year 6 Swimming- last session	pm
18 Oct	Forest School EYFS at school	All day
18 Oct	School closes for half term	3.15pm
October Half term		
28 Oct	School reopens	8.30am
28 Oct	School photos	
30 Oct	Year 6 Residential	
31 Oct	Year 5 Swimming begins	pm
1 Nov	Year 6 Residential returns	

7 Nov	Year 5 Swimming	pm
8 Nov	Odd Sock Day- children can come to school wearing Odd Socks with their uniforms!	All day
11 Nov	Anti-Bullying Week	
11 Nov	Remembrance Day	
14 Nov	Year 5 Swimming	pm
15 Nov	Children in Need details TBC	
21 Nov	Year 5 Swimming	pm
22 Nov	Open classroom- parents are invited to see the children's classroom and look at their work so far!	2.45pm to 3.30pm
28 Nov	Year 5 Swimming	pm
5 Dec	Year 5 Swimming- last session	pm
13 Dec	EYFS Christmas Crafts	
18 Dec	Year 1 to Year 6 Christmas service at the newly refurbished St John' Church- this will include the nativity by Year 1/2	9.30am
19 Dec	Christmas dinner	
20 Dec	School closes for Christmas	3.15pm
Christmas Break		
6 Jan	School reopens for children	8.30am
6 Jan	Wellbeing day for children in school	
29 Jan	Young Voices	
7 Feb	Mid-Year reports sent home	
10 Feb	Parents Evening face to face	3.30pm to 7.00pm
11 Feb	Safer Internet Day	
12 Feb	Parents Evening face to face	3.30pm to 7.00pm
14 Feb	School closes for half term	3.15pm
February Half term		
24 Feb	School reopens for children	8.30am
26 Feb	Year 1 Phonics Meeting for parents	5.00pm
6 March	World Book Day	All day
11 April	School closes for Easter	3.15pm
Easter Break		
28 April	School reopens for children	8.30am
28 April	Wellbeing day for children in school	
5 May	School closed for Bank Holiday	All day
8 May	Forest School Year 5 Hicks Lodge	All day
12 May	Year 6 SATS week	
16 May	Forest School Year 6 Hicks Lodge	All day
21 May	Forest School Year 4 Hicks Lodge	All day
23 May	School closes for half term	3.15pm
May Half term		
2 June	School reopens for children	8.30am
2 June	Year 4 Multiplication check window	
4 June	Forest School Year 3 at school	All day
9 June	Forest School Year 2 at school	All day
9 June	Year 1 phonics check week begins	
12 June	Forest School Year 1 at school	All day
13 June	Sports Day- School field refreshments provided by the PTFA	1.00pm
16 June	Forest School EYFS at school	All day

TBC	Saffron Lane- NWLSSP sporting event, selected KS2 children TBC	
23 June	Reserve Date for Sports Day- in case of wet weather	1.00pm
1 July	End of Year Reports out to parents	
1 July	Open Evening to look at books and discuss reports	3.15pm-4.15pm
2 July	In school move up morning EYFS to Year 5	am
TBC	Year 6 Leavers performance	2.00pm
8 July	Last day of the school year	
Summer Break- have a wonderful Summer!		
26 August	School reopens for children	8.30am