



Newsletter

Positive Ambitious Nurturing

Friday 14th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Valentine's Day! We have had a wonderful last week of the half term: children in Years 3 to 6 had an online author visit and as part of Safer Internet Day, children across the school learnt about staying safe online. This year's theme is 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'. The children were introduced to the theme in a whole school assembly and then completed activities related to the topic in their classrooms throughout the day. Key Stage 2 children also took part in a 'Live Lesson' where they learnt to spot scams in a game called 'Scam smashers'. Teachers across the school, have been very proud of the work produced by the children. Well done everyone!



Online safety information for parents:

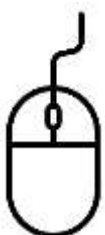
Increasing numbers of children have mobile phones, access to the internet, play games online or use social media sites such as 'Snapchat' or 'Instagram'. There has also recently been an increase in the use of apps such as 'WhatsApp' and 'Tik Tok', in which children can group chat and exchange videos and voice messages.

As parents we know that most of these apps/games require users to be 13 years old or older, but children are using them anyway: some by getting permission from parents to create an account, while others lie about their age to get past sign-up restrictions; one child today told me this week that they had said they were 18 to gain access to one account!

We know how important it is to protect and educate young people on using the internet; computing is an important part of your child's education and increasingly their social life. It is essential that at school and at home we work together to ensure that children understand the benefits that technology can bring and ensure that the children know how to use technology safely. **Ask yourself tonight; are you checking your children's online activity or chat history? If you are not...go and check!**



Whatever your level of knowledge or confidence, these five tips will help you start, manage and maintain an open dialogue with your children about life online, and help you support them to use technology safely and positively.



1. Be positive and open minded about the internet

It's important to recognise the exciting opportunities that going online can offer children and young people. Although your children may use the internet differently to you, their experiences are still significant. If your child mentions something you haven't heard of, ask them to show you, or explain in more detail, or you may need to do your own research. Try to keep conversations broad, and value their opinions when they're talking about what they enjoy doing, to show that you are interested in all aspects of their online world.

2. Talk early and often

The most effective way to deal with any online issue is to make conversations about the internet a part of your everyday routine.

Talking openly about life online from an early age, can be a helpful bridge to sharing safety messages and addressing more difficult conversations at a later date; it also shows your child that you are someone who knows about the internet and can help them.

3. Create a safe space for conversations

Look for opportunities to talk together. Sometimes, talking face-to-face can feel difficult, so talking alongside each other when out for a walk, or travelling in the car for example, are options that might make it easier.

The environment needs to be right; free from distractions, so that your child has your undivided attention. Remind them often that they can talk to you about anything, no matter how difficult, and that they will not be judged or blamed.

Your child might not be ready to talk about something straight away, so show them that you are there to listen whenever they are ready.

4. Keep it relevant

As they get older, your children will use technology differently from when they first went online. Their knowledge and understanding will grow too, as will the challenges they may face on the internet. To get a sense of how much they know and what support they still need, ask open-ended questions to let your child lead the conversations you have.

There are appropriate ways to approach all online safety topics with different ages. For example, with a teenager, nude images can be spoken about in wider conversations around consent and healthy relationships. For younger children, you could discuss what types of images are okay to share online, and what areas of our bodies are private.

5. Be proactive

Working together to create an agreement, outlining how the internet and technology will be used within the family, is a useful way to set clear expectations and boundaries for your children.

You might include time spent online; who your children can communicate with; appropriate apps and games; and why safety tools are helpful to block and report inappropriate content.

Ask your child what they would do if something went wrong online and they needed help, and reinforce the importance of telling an adult as soon as anything happens that makes them feel upset, worried, or uncomfortable in any way.

There is a lot more information about how to help your child stay safe online on the safeguarding page of our website <http://www.donisthorpeprimary.org/safeguarding.html>. If you have any questions on this, please do not hesitate to contact school.

Medicine in school

Can I please remind parents that staff will only give prescription medicine on completion of the 'Request for the Administration of Medicine' form from Mrs Webb in the school office. Medication must be in its original packaging, labelled with the pupil's name, dose, and frequency of administration, storage requirements and expiry date. **Please do not send over the counter medication into school in children's bags- this could prove to be really dangerous.**

Anti-Bullying Posters

Well done to our Year 6 children, who have produced wonderful anti-bullying posters for our younger children. They are visible around school and offer useful information and advice. I'm so proud that our eldest children are so knowledgeable about the signs of bullying and that they care so much about tackling bullying at school and everywhere.

Everyone Belongs at Donisthorpe Primary School

We are committed to preparing our children for life in the diverse society, which is modern Britain today. Through the year we cover all of the protected characteristics, which are: race, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, religion or belief, age, sex and sexual orientation.

February is LGBT+ History Month

Children are always very respectful when we talk about this area in school, they are often shocked at some of the treatment that LGBT people have received in the past and ask some very sensible questions.

What we talk about in school?

LGBT+ people haven't always been treated fairly or kindly—and sadly, sometimes still aren't.

A long time ago, many people thought only men and women should get married. It wasn't OK for men to love men or women to love women—and it was even illegal for same-sex couples to get married.

Many gay people kept it a secret because they were afraid of being treated badly—even by their own families. This is why it's important to remember the past, so we can make sure the world is kinder and more accepting now.

Key points to emphasise to children at home:

It's not okay: What matters is who we are as people—their talents, kindness, and achievements—not who they love or how they identify.

Different is good: Everyone deserves to feel safe and proud of who they are.

If you have any questions about this or anything else, please telephone school 01530 270371 or email office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk. We wish all our children and families a joyous half term break and look forward to seeing everyone at 8.30 am on Monday 24th February!

Regards,

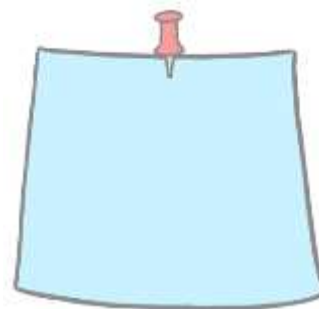


Sylvie Newman



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 Feb	Parents Evening face to face	3.30pm to 7.00pm
11Feb	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 Mar	World Book Day PTFA event selling books in the playground after school	All day
21 Mar	Red Nose Day – Do something funny for money. Wear something to make us smile for a donation	
28 Mar	PTFA Mother’s Day pop up shop	
8 Apr	Year 6 Warning Zone	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
9 May	Forest School Year 5 on site	All day
12 May	Year 6 SATS week	
16 May	Forest School Year 6 on site	All day
21 May	Forest School Year 4 on site	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	
6 June	Forest School Year 3 on site	All day
9 June	Forest School Year 2 on site	All day
9 June	Year 1 phonics check week begins	
11 June	Saffron Lane NWLSSP sporting event, selected KS2 children TBC	
12 June	Forest School Year 1 on site	All day
13 June	Sports Day- School field refreshments provided by the PTFA / Father’s Day Krispy Kreme doughnuts	1.00pm
16 June	Forest School EYFS on site	All day
23 June	Reserve Date for Sports Day- in case of wet weather	1.00pm
27 June	EYFS / Year 1 Forest School on site	
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

4 July	EYFS / Year 1 Forest School on site	
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