



Newsletter

Positive Ambitious Nurturing

Wednesday 2nd July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a busy few weeks here at Donisthorpe Primary School, with lots of exciting things happening. As you know last week on Tuesday and Wednesday we were visited by Ofsted! Thank you all so much for the many supportive comments during the inspection both via email and on the gate in the morning! I also wanted to mention the particularly amazing comments and feedback we received through the Ofsted parent view survey...100% of parents say that their child is safe and happy and 97% of parents would recommend our school - which is almost unheard of!

THANK YOU!



As usual the children were also brilliant and a credit to you all. The inspection process was very thorough, we do not have the report yet, but as soon as we have it I will share it with parents/carers- this may be over the summer break so please look out for this email!

'Summer Festival' on Tuesday 8th July- 'Newman fest'

To say a heartfelt thank you to all the wonderful children (and staff!), I'm planning a special event — a 'Summer Festival' on Tuesday 8th July. Let's call it Newman Fest!

I hope it will be a fun and memorable way to celebrate our time together. The children will receive a VIP wrist band to access Newman Fest and will be able to chose a festival accessory to wear.

There will be live music, dancing, fun and games! Children can come to school in non-uniform or 'festival' clothes.

We will be visited by an ice cream van and I will treat the children (and staff) to an ice lolly or an ice cream. (The van will also be available at the end of the school day if parents would like to purchase additional treats for siblings and themselves!)

To make the afternoon even more special, children can bring in some money and the PTFA will be selling temporary tattoos and other treats!

I know that the children and staff will have a wonderful time and will leave the school with a great memory and a smile rather than a sad face!



Farewell Year 6!

As the academic year ends, we will certainly be sad to say goodbye to our amazing group of Year 6 children and their families. We will never forget them and the memories that we have created together! Although we are sad to see them go, we are also happy knowing that they are well prepared for the next stage of their educational journey. At secondary school, the children will have even more opportunities available to them, and I am sure they will continue to thrive. We look forward to hearing about their journey into the future.

Sports Day

Our recent Sports Day was another resounding success! The sun shone (but it wasn't too hot!) and the children jumped, hopped, skipped and ran with enormous smiles on their faces! The children were cheered on by a huge crowd of parents, grandparents and friends; I think it was the biggest turnout yet, and so lovely to see so many of you joining us! There really was a wonderful atmosphere! Well done to all the children who took part! Thank you to, Miss Morton for her excellent organisation and to the whole staff team for pulling together to ensure the event ran smoothly. A final thanks to the PTFA for their welcome refreshments!



Message from Mr Williamson

I am very pleased to share some exciting news with you. Miss Faye Dennis has been appointed as our new Deputy Headteacher. Miss Dennis is currently on maternity leave and will take up the post upon her return. Many of you will know her already, as she has worked at Donisthorpe at various points over the past 11 years, taking on a range of roles and making a strong contribution to school life during that time.

During her teaching career, Miss Dennis has taught in every year group and across all key stages, gaining a broad and balanced understanding of the primary curriculum. Alongside her time with us, she has also gained valuable leadership experience in a range of other schools, both locally and internationally.

We are delighted to welcome her into this new role and are confident that her experience, insight, and commitment will be a real asset to the school. We look forward to her return and to the continued development and success of our school with her as part of the leadership team.

Class Structure 2025-2026

This week the children will spend the morning with their new teachers in their new classrooms, I've got a feeling that next year is going to be our best yet!!

	Teaching Staff	Supported by:
EYFS	Mrs Lauren Pacey	Miss Annie Cartwright Mrs Katie Heelas
Year 1	Miss Kirsty Morton	Mrs Lisa Marrison
Year 2	Miss Alicia Bloor	Mrs Kathryn Brownlow Mrs Katie Heelas
Year 3	Miss Joanne Harvey (M, Tu, W) Mrs Sarah Rundlett (Th, F)	Mrs Rachel Edwards Miss Bev Nickolls
Year 4	Mrs Lavender	Mrs Rachel Edwards Mrs Sue Meadowcroft Mrs Rosie Pawson
Year 5	Mrs Kirsty Lee-Mabey (M, Tu) Mrs Claire Merry (W, Th, F)	Mrs Sue Meadowcroft Mrs Rosie Pawson
Year 6	Mrs Leah Hughes	Mrs Claire Farrell

Additional Staff	Mrs Heath – SENCO Tuesdays and Thursdays	Mrs Kathryn Brownlow: PPA Cover/ELSA/Interventions Clubszone: PPA Cover/PE
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Beyond Bullying Gold Award

Fantastic news! We are absolutely thrilled to announce that we have been awarded GOLD in the Leicestershire County Council Beyond Bullying Award!

This award celebrates our unwavering commitment to creating a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all. Over the past year, our staff, children, and wider community have worked incredibly hard to promote kindness, stand up to bullying, and ensure that every voice is heard and valued.

Achieving the Gold Award was no small feat- it required us to demonstrate sustained action, innovation, and dedication to anti-bullying initiatives across the school. From child-led campaigns and awareness events to staff training and policy development, we have done a huge body of work that reflects our whole-school approach to tackling bullying.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this success and to Mr Williamson who has led this initiative in school.



The Nook
AT DONISTHORPE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Nook

Bookings are now open for our before and after school club for after the summer- please book early to avoid disappointment.

Summer Reading Challenge 2025

This is a national initiative from the Reading Agency run by libraries across the UK and is celebrating it's 25th year in 2025. It is aimed at children from the ages of 4 – 12 years old. The aim of the challenge is to encourage children to keep on reading throughout the long summer holiday when many children can lose interest and reading skills. This ensures they are ready for a great start when returning to school in the Autumn term and is well supported by schools.



This year's challenge 'Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors', will inspire children to tap into a world of imagination through the magical connections of books and nature.

Measham Library has been running the challenge since it started and we also invite families to come along and join in themed events. Look out for information on local Facebook pages or pop in to the library to find out more.

As the Academic Year Ends – A Fond Farewell from me!

Next week marks the end of the academic year—and my final day as Executive Headteacher of Donisthorpe Primary School.

All I can truly say is that it has been a *glorious* journey. It has been an absolute privilege to work with, support, and learn from such a remarkable school community. Thanks to the passion and dedication of so many- both within and beyond the school- Donisthorpe has continued to go from strength to strength.

The best thing about my time at Donisthorpe has got to be the people and the teamwork; laughing, sharing, supporting, encouraging and understanding. There are too many great people to mention individually (you know who you are, you know what a great support you have been and you know that I will be forever grateful.)

I would like to say a massive thank you to all the staff I have had the pleasure of working alongside over the past 15 years; the office team, teaching team, support staff team, lunchtime staff and catering and cleaning team, not forgetting our wonderful Premises Officer– they have all done their bit to make Donisthorpe the place it is today. Donisthorpe only works as well because of all the amazing people front of house and behind the scenes who keep the cogs whirring. I will miss you all.

A special thanks to the Donisthorpe Governors who have been critical friends and a huge support in the strategic leadership and development of the school. They are a team of huge-hearted people who rarely get a mention for all their hard work and time but are pivotal in the smooth leadership of the school.

A big “high five” to the PTFA and its various leads over the years—you’ve made such a positive difference to school life, helping to create a warm atmosphere and wonderful opportunities for both children and parents.

And so, to the children of Donisthorpe – you will always hold a very special place in my heart and I will continue to smile and glow with pride as I hear about you reaching milestones and achieving your dreams in the future. Always remember, if you follow The Donisthorpe Way you won’t go far wrong in life. Stay true to yourselves; be your own person; have your own ideas and opinions and most of all, always be kind.

As the sun sets on my headship, I am delighted to be handing over the Donisthorpe crown to my partner in crime Mr Williamson who always puts the needs of the children first and upholds the Donisthorpe values. I hope that you will all continue to show him the support he deserves. My aim has always been to lead a school where I would be happy for my own children to attend; Donisthorpe feels like a family; it’s a really happy place.

So onwards and upwards, Donisthorpe- I shall be keeping a very close eye on your news and developments over the coming years. I know everyone’s continuing support, the school will continue to make memories for generations to come. With very best wishes for all your future successes I bid you Goodbye!

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

This will be the last newsletter of the year so I would like to wish you all a wonderful summer break, school reopens to children on **Tuesday 26th August 2025**.

Regards,



Sylvie Newman
Executive Headteacher

