



# Newsletter

Positive Ambitious Nurturing

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last few weeks have been filled with lots of exciting activities and achievements. We have had a few visits from teachers from other schools over the last few weeks and they have been blown away by our wonderful school. I feel so proud of our children's hard work and enthusiasm in class!



## Donisthorpe Star Award

Every week on a Friday, we hold a Special Mentions Assembly. Children receive a Special Mention certificate for impressing their teacher (or another adult)- this may be because of the hard work in class, being kind in the playground, sharing, showing an improvement in behaviour or any other positive reason. During our Friday assembly, we also give out a Positive Pig certificate, for children that have demonstrated our focus character muscle over the past week.

Last week, we gave out our first **Donisthorpe Star** certificates. These new awards will be given out to

one child per class each week. The award is for those children who are always setting a great example of The Donisthorpe Way, day in, day out. We notice your fantastic effort and behaviour at all times, so thank you children!



## Cross Country

Our cross-country runners have worked really hard this season- we had a huge turnout of runners at each race with great placings at the NWL School races on Saturday mornings. Some of our children ran last weekend representing North West Leicestershire at the Cross-County Championships which they'd qualified for following their excellent placings and both girls did amazingly well. The run included runners from athletics clubs as well as schools and there were over 100 finishers. What an amazing achievement! We are so proud of how well they did. They definitely did Donisthorpe proud!

## Healthy Snack

Please ensure that you provide a health snack, for example a piece of fruit or vegetable for your child's break time snack. I am seeing different things such as a chocolate and crisps at break time- which I imagine are taken from lunch boxes...remember that fruit is available for Key Stage 1 children. We will remind the children in school about the healthy choice. Many thanks in supporting us being a healthy school.

## Victory in Europe 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

As you may be aware in May the nation will be celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in Europe. Everyone in modern Britain today has a connection to those who served during the Second World War, either through their family or within the community. To commemorate Victory in Europe, during the week beginning Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May we will be planning lots of activities for the children to learn about some of the events of the second World War and its eventual ending in Europe on May 8<sup>th</sup> 1945. We will also pay tribute to those who lost their lives so that we can live the way we live today. The week of learning and celebration will end on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May with a VE Day Party! We would like children to come to school dressed up in red, white and blue. If children are feeling more adventurous they could even dress in 1940s clothing or uniforms from the era. Whatever is most easy and comfortable for our families! At 2.00pm we will all go out into the school grounds (weather permitting) and have a good old-fashioned party! We will share further details of the weeks celebrations nearer the time.



### Time keeping

Over the last few weeks, we have seen an increasing number of children arriving late for school in the mornings. This is incredibly unsettling for the children and does not allow them to enjoy a smooth start to the school day with their peers.

We always give any late comers a warm welcome, but it can be upsetting for children to enter the class after everyone else. It also means that the reception area can become very congested and busy first thing in the morning. Please be aware that teachers often focus on some of the most important things for children early in the morning because research shows this is when they are at their most receptive. If your child is regularly late for school, they will consistently miss this important part of their learning!



**Remember, doors close at 8.45am!**

### Anti-Bullying Survey Results

We are delighted to share the results of our recent anti-bullying survey, which highlights the positive experiences of our pupils and areas we continue to focus on as a school.

- **97% of parents** said their child is happy at school.
- **100% of parents** agreed or strongly agreed that their child feels happy at school.
- **90% of parents** agreed or strongly agreed that our school promotes positive behaviour and respect, with the remaining 10% unsure.
- **84% of parents** felt their child understands what bullying is. We will continue to reinforce this through lessons.
- **81% of parents** said their child has been taught what to do if they witness or experience bullying, while 19% were unsure.
- **87% of parents** believe their child would feel confident reporting bullying to an adult at school or at home. To support this further, Mr. Williamson will be leading upcoming assemblies on recognising and reporting bullying, particularly for those who may feel anxious about speaking up.

- **94% of parents** feel confident that any bullying concerns would be dealt with swiftly and effectively, with 6% unsure.
- **94% of parents** feel that our school communicates well with families about behaviour and bullying policies.

Additionally, some parents raised concerns that children who always behave well may not feel as recognised as others. In response, we have introduced our weekly **Donisthorpe Star Award**, celebrating those who consistently follow **The Donisthorpe Way** every day.

Thank you to all parents who took the time to complete the survey. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us ensure our school remains a happy, safe, and welcoming place for every child.

### **Staffing changes**

Miss F Dennis, one of our wonderful Year 6 teachers is expecting a baby and is due to start her maternity leave after Easter. Mrs Rundlett will teach an extra day each week in Year 6, teaching the class on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. She will be joined by Miss R Dennis, (who is actually Miss Dennis's sister!). Miss R Dennis has a wealth of teaching experience and she is really thrilled to be joining the teaching team at Donisthorpe. She will teach the children on a Thursday and Friday and will be introduced to the children shortly.

As you may be aware, Mr Williamson currently teaches in Year 3 on a Friday. After Easter Mrs Hughes will teach the class all week. This will enable Mr Williamson to support children across the school and fulfil his leadership duties.

### **Trim Trail use at the end of the day**

As the weather improves a number of children are using the trim trail at the end of the school day. Please make sure that your child is supervised during this time. Please leave the playground when by the time the playground gate is locked at 3.25pm so that after school clubs can come out side.

If you are collecting a child from one of the sports clubs at 4.00pm, and the children from the Nook are outside, please do not allow your child to use the trim trail so that we can ensure the safety and supervision of the children at The Nook.

### **Secondary School – current Year 6 children**

Congratulations to our Year 6 children who this week received their secondary school place offers! With this in mind, I want to remind parents to keep a regular check on your child's Year 7 school website for up and coming dates and events. We will shortly start liaising with the high schools to ensure a smooth transition for our Year 6 children.

If you have any questions, please telephone school 01530 270371 or email [office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk).

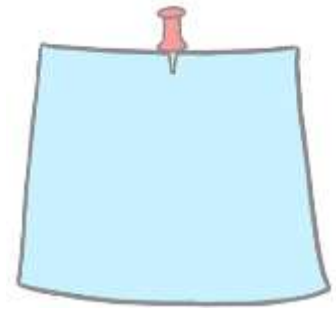
Regards,



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!**



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
<b>Easter Break</b>		
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	VE Day Party	
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	LCH Charity Colour Run	
23 May	School closes for half term	3.15pm
<b>May Half term</b>		
2 June	School reopens for children	8.30am
2 June	Year 4 Multiplication check window	
3 June	Year 5 The National Arboretum	All day
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	
<b>Summer Break- have a wonderful Summer!</b>		
26 August	School reopens for children	8.30am