



Newsletter

Positive Ambitious Nurturing

Friday 10th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,



As we head into the final week of this half-term, it has been wonderful to see children across the school continuing to work so hard. They are certainly earning their well-deserved break starting Monday 20th October!

Our EYFS children had a fantastic day yesterday during their visit to the local orchard. Mrs Pacey was incredibly impressed with their excellent behaviour, and the children had a great time

picking apples and making delicious apple cookies. Year 1 have been busy investigating floating and sinking in their science lessons, while Year 6 enjoyed a well-earned treat afternoon after successfully filling their class reward jar through teamwork and effort.



I am also extremely proud of our Year 5 and Year 6 Tag Rugby team who recently took part in a local competition and were awarded the Spirit of the Game Award—a real testament to their determination, sportsmanship and teamwork.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who joined us for our Key Stage 2 Harvest Festival this morning. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did— aren't your children great?



Safety cycling home

A number of parents have recently shared concerns about the way some of our older children are cycling home at the end of the school day. If your child cycles to or from school, please take a moment to speak with them about staying safe on the roads, being considerate to pedestrians and other road users, and meeting your expectations—and ours—around responsible behaviour. Thank you for your support in helping to keep everyone safe.

A huge thank you!

We would like to say a massive thank you to Orchard Safety Ltd. who have offered to support our EYFS children by funding additional Forest School sessions for our EYFS class later this year. Orchard Safety are a big believer – as are we - that these sessions provide enormous benefits to a child's education, supporting academic learning, boosting social and emotional skills and encouraging curiosity and creativity.

These outdoor learning experiences give children the chance to explore nature, build resilience, and develop essential life skills - all in a safe, nurturing environment.

Orchard Safety are thrilled to help create more opportunities for hands-on learning, and look forward to seeing the positive impact it brings to the children and the wider community.



School photographs – Friday 7th November

On Friday 7th November JS Photographers will be in school for individual and sibling photographs. If your child has a pre-school sibling you are invited to bring them in for a sibling photograph from 8:15am to 8.40 am, before the school day begins.

Assemblies

In recent assemblies, our Key Stage 2 children have been learning about the importance of mental health—particularly timely as today is National Mental Health Day. The children shared thoughtful ideas about how we can all look after our wellbeing, from talking to someone we trust, to spending time outside to taking time to relax and enjoy hobbies.

Children also heard an inspiring story about a pair of female ice skaters in Finland who are challenging stereotypes by competing together as a same-sex skating partnership.

The whole school also enjoyed a visit from the wonderful Open The Book team, who help children learn about Christianity by bringing Bible stories to life through drama. Children were really engaged and seemed to enjoy this special assembly.

Odd Sock Day – Monday 10th November

We are delighted to once again be taking part in Odd Sock Day, which marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week. This fun event is a great way for children to celebrate what makes us all unique while sharing the important message that everyone is different and everyone is equal.

On Monday 10th November, we would love all children to come to school wearing odd socks with their school uniform to show their support. The brighter and more colourful, the better!

There is no donation required—this is simply about getting involved and spreading kindness.



Children in Need- Friday 14th November

To help raise money for this fantastic cause, on Friday 14th November would like to children to come to school wearing something to makes them happy! This can be literally anything – as simple as comfortable clothes, as silly as pants on their head or as wonderful as princess dresses and superhero costumes! Please bring a cash donation of whatever you can spare.



Change of date – EYFS Christmas Celebration

Please note that we have moved the date of our EYFS Christmas Celebration. It will now take place on **Thursday 11th December at 9.30am**, which also happens to be Christmas Jumper Day – even more reason to enjoy some festive fun together! We apologise for any inconvenience this change may cause and look forward to welcoming you for a magical morning with our youngest children.

Reminder: Phonics Workshop – Tuesday 28th October

We are pleased to invite parents and carers of our **EYFS children** to a Phonics Workshop with Mrs Pacey on Tuesday 28th October at 5.00pm.

The session will provide:

- A clear introduction to phonics
- Guidance on the correct pronunciation of sounds
- Practical ideas for supporting your child at home

The workshop will last around 30–40 minutes and will also include time to explore phonics reading books and activities that can help with learning at home. We hope many of you will be able to join us — it promises to be a really useful session for supporting your child’s reading journey.

Reminder: Donisthorpe Book Swap – Friday 28th November

Following the success of our World Book Day Book Swap earlier this year, we are excited to be running another Donisthorpe Book Swap on Friday 28th November.

Children are encouraged to bring in any books from home (in good condition) that they no longer want. These will then be swapped at our Book Swap Market in the school hall, giving every child the chance to take home some “new to them” books to enjoy — and giving parents a handy opportunity for a clear out at the same time!

Reminder: 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 or 0116 305 6684.

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

Some families may be eligible for Pupil Premium Grant (PPG). This funding may allow us to provide free school meals and milk for your child, and could 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.

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

Regards,



Jamie Williamson
Headteacher



From 1 September you can apply for your child's school place for the 2026/27 academic year

Secondary school application closing date
Friday 31 October 2025

Primary and Infant to Junior school application closing date
Thursday 15 January 2026

For hints and tips about the process, information on Leicestershire schools and to apply, visit
[leicestershire.gov.uk/admissions](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/admissions)

The graphic features a green background with a white speech bubble containing the main message. It includes icons for a pencil, a lightbulb, a school building, and a magnifying glass. A pink school bag is visible at the bottom left.