



Newsletter

Positive Ambitious Nurturing

Friday 12th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now three weeks into the new term and teachers are so impressed with their new classes. At last week's Special Mentions Assembly, every teacher mentioned just how hard it was to make decisions on who received certificates – in a good way! A huge well done to our children for a great start!

EYFS Settling In and Open Classroom

Our new EYFS children have settled in to school life well. They've had a busy few weeks exploring learning jobs in their classroom and getting used to life at Donisthorpe. Many of them have let me know about rules they have decided on for their classroom and our older children are enjoying being role models to them out on the playground. Next week, I will introduce 'The Donisthorpe Way' behaviour system to them – I'm sure they will soon learn this and continue to flourish.

Now that the children are more settled, Mrs Pacey would like to invite EYFS parents into the classroom to see their amazing learning space in action and share some of their favourite activities. This Open Classroom session will take place on Thursday 25th September 2025, from 3.15pm to 3.45pm.



Mrs Pacey will dismiss all children first, ensuring everyone is safe and accounted for, before inviting you in to explore the environment. This will also be an informal opportunity to chat with Mrs Pacey and ask any questions you may have.



Harvest Festival 2025

We are looking forward to this year's Harvest celebration! This year's service will involve **Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, and Year 6** children and will take place at **9.30am on Friday 10th October** (moved from the previously arranged date of Thursday 9th October) at **St John's Church, Donisthorpe**. Parents of these children are warmly invited to join us, though we kindly ask you to be mindful of space at the church.

We will be collecting tinned goods, dried foods, and other non-perishables to donate to the Marlene Reid Centre. Please bring donations to school at the **start of the day on Friday 10th October**.



European Day of Languages – Launch of Spanish Curriculum

Starting this academic year, Key Stage 2 children at Donisthorpe will begin learning Spanish, replacing French as our modern foreign language offer. To celebrate **European Day of Languages** on **Friday 26th September**, we will launch our new Spanish curriculum with the children taking part in their first lesson. The afternoon will be dedicated to celebrating European languages, with fun activities focused on Spanish culture and language.

As part of the celebrations, we are inviting all children at Donisthorpe Primary School to take part in Symphony Learning Trust's **Poster Competition on the theme of 'European Languages and Cultures'**. Posters can be created in any style or format the children choose.

Ideas and inspiration:

- Greetings in different languages
- A fact file about a European country
- Celebrations and events in a European country
- Languages shared across multiple European countries



Schools across the Symphony Learning Trust will be participating, and the Trust will present prizes for overall winners in each of the following categories: Foundation, Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2, and Upper Key Stage 2. We would love for Donisthorpe children to help us win the top prize!

The **deadline for poster entries is Thursday 25th September**. Your child should hand their entry to their class teacher.

Ofsted

Hopefully, by now you have had the chance to read our Ofsted report from the June inspection. Reading the report has reminded me (although I'm reminded of this daily) just what a magical place our school is, and what a wonderful team, fantastic children and supportive wider community we have here. Both Mrs Newman, who was Headteacher at the time of the inspection, and I are extremely proud of the school. We recognise that it is the consistent, daily hard work and the culture of nurture and support from everyone at Donisthorpe that makes our school so special.

The inspector praised many aspects of life at Donisthorpe Primary School:

- Pupils are happy, safe and highly motivated to learn.
- Behaviour is exceptional – children take pride in their work and their school.
- Our ambitious, broad and carefully planned curriculum enables pupils to build knowledge and skills with much success.
- Reading is a strength – pupils develop confidence and fluency.
- Children in the early years make rapid progress and become confident, independent learners.
- Support for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is highly effective, ensuring they achieve success.
- A strong sense of community and care is fostered by staff, governors and families.



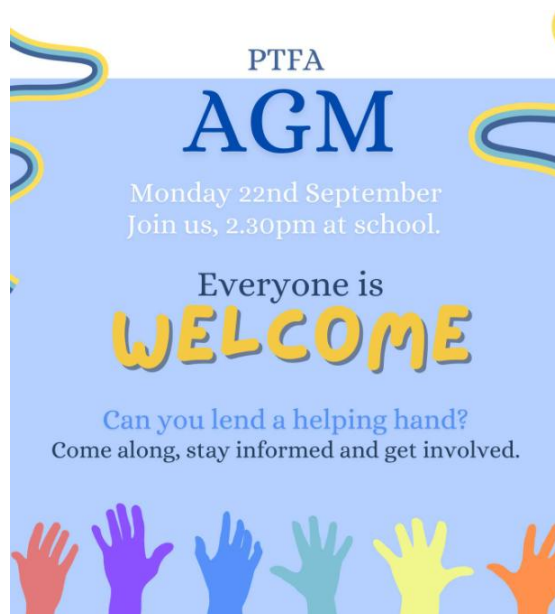
PTFA

The PTFA annual general meeting will be held on **Monday 22nd September at 2pm.**

Our PTFA plays a vital role in raising much-needed funds for the school, which go directly towards resources and events that benefit our children. At a time when school budgets are under increasing pressure, their work is more important than ever.

The AGM is a great opportunity to hear about what's been achieved, share ideas, and see how you can get involved. Whether you can offer a little time, share a skill, or simply lend your support, every contribution makes a difference.

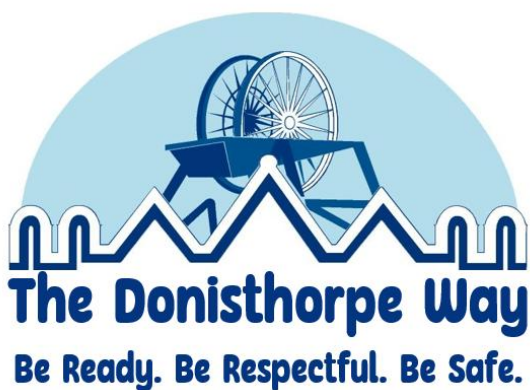
We would love to see as many parents and carers as possible—your involvement helps us to do even more for our children.



Safety at the Beginning and End of the School Day

I appreciate that many families are in a rush during drop-off and collection times (I know how rushed mornings with little ones can be), but it's important that we all work together to keep everyone safe.

Parking: It has been brought to our attention by several parents that some vehicles are parking on the school side of the road in the mornings, causing double parking and blocking traffic. Please consider parking further away from school rather than creating congestion that affects other families during everyone's morning or afternoon rush.



Entering School: Children should walk along our school path when entering school. The path is narrow, and running could easily lead to accidents or injuries at these busy times.

Climbing Fences and Walls: Please ensure children do not climb fences or walls while lining up to enter school. This is especially important near the Reception entrance, where the door opens outwards and could cause harm.

By following these simple guidelines, we can make the start and end of the school day safe and smooth for everyone.

Goodbye Mrs Spillett

We are saying a fond farewell to Mrs Spillett, who has worked in our school kitchen for seven years—first as a school employee and later with Relish. She has always served our children's lunches with a smile and has been a friendly and familiar face around school.

Thank you, Mrs Spillett, for your hard work and dedication over the years. You will be missed by both staff and children, and we wish you all the very best for the future.



Residential Meeting for Year 6 Parents

Mr Williamson will be holding a short meeting for the parents of the Year 6 children who are going on this year's residential to Whitemoor Lakes. The meeting will be held in the school hall on **Wednesday 8th October at 6pm**. This meeting is for parents only.

EYFS parents (2026 intake) Open Evening

Do you have a child who is due to start school in August 2026? 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 7th 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.

Celebrating Our Diversity

At Donisthorpe, we love learning about the many cultures and backgrounds of our children. If you or your child would like to share stories, traditions, or aspects of your family's heritage with us, we would be delighted! This could include languages, festivals, family customs, or anything that represents your culture.

Please speak to your child's class teacher if you would like to contribute—together, we can celebrate and learn from one another!



Healthy Snacks Reminder

Just a reminder that we encourage children to bring healthy snacks for break time. Fruit, vegetables, or other nutritious options are ideal.

Please avoid sweets, chocolate, and sugary drinks, so that all children can enjoy a healthy, energising snack and stay focused during their learning.

Thank you for helping us promote healthy habits at school!

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

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

Apply for a School Place – Primary/Secondary

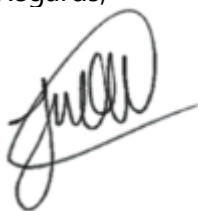
It is fast approaching the time when Year 6 parents need to apply for their secondary school places. To assist you in this, the feeder secondary schools will have open evenings over the coming weeks – see their websites/social media pages or contact schools for details. The deadline for applying for 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.

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

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Williamson', written in a cursive style.

Jamie Williamson
Headteacher