



# Newsletter

Positive Ambitious Nurturing

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now three weeks into the new term and all of our new children have all settled into school routines so well. Our new foundation children are enjoying coming to school and are already busy with their 'learning jobs' in the classroom!

We have made some exciting changes to our Year 2 classroom this year so that there is a greater focus on continuous provision. We have found in the past that transition from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to Key Stage 1 can be challenging for our youngest learners, as it usually involves a shift from play-based learning to more formal teaching. At Donisthorpe we have embraced continuous provision, in order to bridge the gap between EYFS and Key Stage 1 by maintaining elements of play-based learning while meeting the curriculum objectives of Key Stage 1. Miss Bloor is now using her expertise to further enhance the year 2 classroom so that there are opportunities for children to learn through hands-on activities, promoting autonomy, creativity, and critical thinking skills. The children are really thriving and it is a joy to see!



## Harvest Festival 2024

We are really looking forward to joining together this year for our 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 11<sup>th</sup> October** at the new look **St John's Church in Donisthorpe**. We are excited to be celebrating in this new community space. We invite parents of these children to join us!

We will be collecting tinned goods, dried foods and other non-perishables to donate to the Marlene Reid Centre. Donations should be brought to school at the beginning of the day on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October**.

## Parents Evening

This year parents evening will take place on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October**, the meetings will take place in school and you will also be able to look at your children's books. A short Settling in Report will be sent home on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October this will be discussed during the parents evening. You will be sent more information about how to book your appointment shortly. We are hoping that 100% of parents will attend and we are excited to share the children's learning with you!

## **PTFA AGM**

Monday 30th September is the PTFA AGM- please join us in school at 2.30pm to find out what you can do to help the school raise valuable funds! Our active PTFA are amazing and organise lots of activities for the children throughout the year including School Discos, Chocolate Bingo, the Summer Fair. Come and meet the team!



## **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 Whitemore Lakes. The meeting will be held in the school hall on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm.**

## **Asda Rewards**

Between 2nd September and 30th November 2024 – every time you shop with Asda using your Asda Rewards app, Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to your chosen Primary school. Also, every time somebody opts-in to support our Primary school, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

The supermarket has joined forces with Joe Wicks to support the initiative – look out for the TV advert, radio ads and social media coverage!

## **It's as easy as 1,2,3**

1. Download the Asda Rewards app, register and opt-in to Cashpot for Schools
2. Choose our Primary School – either searching by name or postcode
3. Shop instore across Asda and George, or online at Asda.com and start filling your Cashpot as you shop

Asda does the rest, all money raised will be donated to schools to spend on the things they need the most.

Remember, anyone can sign up – so start spreading the news and raising funds for our school.



This initiative is on top of the existing Asda Rewards benefits you get as a shopper – so you won't lose out on any of your own earnings or Cashpot, so everyone is a winner!

For more details, visit [asda.com/cashpotforschools](https://asda.com/cashpotforschools)

## **EYFS parents (2025 intake) Open Evening**

Do you have a child who is due to start school in September 2025? Choosing your child's school is an important decision. 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Vacancies- We still need a few more lunchtime supervisors to join our team? Are you available at lunchtimes every day? Are you looking for part time work?**

**LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR**  
**Monday to Friday 11.55am to 1.05pm**

You will need to help, support and play alongside children aged 4 to 11 outside during their lunchtime break. Patience, enjoyment of children's company, a very positive outlook and lots of common sense are essential!

**Are you entitled to Free School Meals?**

Children of families in receipt of certain benefits may be eligible for additional funding – Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) - which we can use to provide free school milk and lunches for your child. Support with paying for school trips and other educational activities can be offered by the SLT for pupils in receipt of this funding. Even if you don't wish to take advantage of any of these, school can still claim much needed funding for those who are eligible. Under current rules the funding lasts for 6 years, even if your circumstances change in that time. If you have not already applied, or if your circumstances have changed recently, we would encourage you to check eligibility and apply online. Please contact the school office for more details.

**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 – details on their websites. The deadline for applying for a Secondary School place is **31st October 2024**.

The deadline for applying for a Primary School place is **15th January 2025**. For both applications, the simplest way is online at: <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](mailto:office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk)

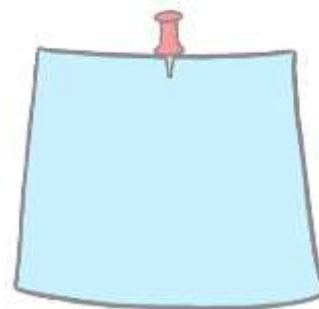
Regards,



Sylvie Newman  
Executive Headteacher

# 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 Sept	Forest School Year 6 Hicks Lodge	All day
12 Sept	Year 6 Swimming begins	pm
17 Sept	Forest School Year 5 Hicks Lodge	All day
19 Sept	Year 6 Swimming	pm
20 Sept	Forest School EYFS at school	am
24 Sept	Forest School Year 4 Hicks Lodge	All day
26 Sept	Year 6 Swimming	pm
27 Sept	Forest School EYFS at school	am
30 Sept	<b>PTFA AGM</b>	<b>2.30 pm</b>
1 Oct	Forest School Year 2 at school	All day
3 Oct	Year 6 Swimming	pm
4 Oct	Forest School EYFS at school	am
4 Oct	Forest School Year 1 at school	pm
8 Oct	New EYFS parents 2025 intake Open Evening	6.30pm to 7.30pm
8 Oct	Forest School Year 3 at school	All day
9 Oct	<b>Yr6 Residential Parents Meeting</b>	<b>6 pm</b>
10 Oct	Year 6 Swimming	pm
10 Oct	NHS Immunisations	
11 Oct	Forest School EYFS at school	am
11 Oct	Forest School Year 1 at school	pm
11 Oct	Harvest service at the newly refurbished St John's Church- this will include Year 3/Year 4/Year 5/Year 6 children	9.30am
11 Oct	Settling in reports sent home	
14 Oct	Parents Evening face to face	3.30pm to 7.00pm
16 Oct	Parents Evening face to face	3.30pm to 7.00pm
17 Oct	Year 6 Swimming- last session	pm
18 Oct	Forest School EYFS at school	All day
18 Oct	School closes for half term	3.15pm
<b>October Half term</b>		
28 Oct	School reopens	8.30am
28 Oct	School photos	
30 Oct	Year 6 Residential	
31 Oct	Year 5 Swimming begins	pm
1 Nov	Year 6 Residential returns	
7 Nov	Year 5 Swimming	pm
8 Nov	Odd Sock Day- children can come to school wearing Odd Socks with their uniforms!	All day
8 Nov	<b>Individual Photographs</b>	
11 Nov	Anti-Bullying Week	
11 Nov	Remembrance Day	
14 Nov	Year 5 Swimming	pm

<b>15 Nov</b>	Children in Need details TBC	
<b>21 Nov</b>	Year 5 Swimming	pm
<b>22 Nov</b>	Open classroom- parents are invited to see the children's classroom and look at their work so far!	2.45pm to 3.30pm
<b>28 Nov</b>	Year 5 Swimming	pm
<b>5 Dec</b>	Year 5 Swimming- last session	pm
<b>13 Dec</b>	EYFS Christmas Crafts	
<b>18 Dec</b>	Year 1 to Year 6 Christmas service at the newly refurbished St John' Church- this will include the nativity by Year 1/2	9.30am
<b>19 Dec</b>	Christmas dinner	
<b>20 Dec</b>	School closes for Christmas	3.15pm
<b>Christmas Break</b>		
<b>6 Jan</b>	School reopens for children	8.30am
<b>6 Jan</b>	Wellbeing day for children in school	
<b>29 Jan</b>	Young Voices	
<b>7 Feb</b>	Mid-Year reports sent home	
<b>10 Feb</b>	Parents Evening face to face	3.30pm to 7.00pm
<b>11Feb</b>	Safer Internet Day	
<b>12 Feb</b>	Parents Evening face to face	3.30pm to 7.00pm
<b>14 Feb</b>	School closes for half term	3.15pm
<b>February Half term</b>		
<b>24 Feb</b>	School reopens for children	8.30am
<b>26 Feb</b>	Year 1 Phonics Meeting for parents	5.00pm
<b>6 March</b>	World Book Day	All day
<b>11 April</b>	School closes for Easter	3.15pm
<b>Easter Break</b>		
<b>28 April</b>	School reopens for children	8.30am
<b>28 April</b>	Wellbeing day for children in school	
<b>5 May</b>	School closed for Bank Holiday	All day
<b>8 May</b>	Forest School Year 5 Hicks Lodge	All day
<b>12 May</b>	Year 6 SATS week	
<b>16 May</b>	Forest School Year 6 Hicks Lodge	All day
<b>21 May</b>	Forest School Year 4 Hicks Lodge	All day
<b>23 May</b>	School closes for half term	3.15pm
<b>May Half term</b>		
<b>2 June</b>	School reopens for children	8.30am
<b>2 June</b>	Year 4 Multiplication check window	
<b>4 June</b>	Forest School Year 3 at school	All day
<b>9 June</b>	Forest School Year 2 at school	All day
<b>9 June</b>	Year 1 phonics check week begins	
<b>12 June</b>	Forest School Year 1 at school	All day
<b>13 June</b>	Sports Day- School field refreshments provided by the PTFA	1.00pm
<b>16 June</b>	Forest School EYFS at school	All day
<b>TBC</b>	Saffron Lane- NWLSSP sporting event, selected KS2 children TBC	
<b>23 June</b>	Reserve Date for Sports Day- in case of wet weather	1.00pm
<b>1 July</b>	End of Year Reports out to parents	
<b>1 July</b>	Open Evening to look at books and discuss reports	3.15pm-4.15pm
<b>2 July</b>	In school move up morning EYFS to Year 5	am
<b>TBC</b>	Year 6 Leavers performance	2.00pm

<b>8 July</b>	Last day of the school year	
<b>Summer Break- have a wonderful Summer!</b>		
<b>26 August</b>	School reopens for children	8.30am