



Newsletter

Positive Ambitious Nurturing

Friday 26th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy fortnight at Donisthorpe, with your children continuing to work hard and demonstrate The Donisthorpe Way.

As I write, our children are celebrating European Day of Languages with Spanish-themed afternoons. They have been learning about Spain and its culture, with some even sampling Spanish food. Pupils in Years 3 to 6 are also completing their very first Spanish lessons, as we launch our new curriculum.



It has been an exciting few weeks for Year 4, who have started their weekly ukulele lessons as part of our music offer. Pupils in EYFS, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 have been making the most of their Forest School days, while Year 5 have made a brilliant start to their Design & Technology unit on structures. I was also particularly impressed to step into a Year 6 writing lesson this week — the quality of the work even gave Mrs Hughes “tingles”!

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.



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!

Assemblies

In my recent assemblies, Key Stage 2 explored the diversity of our school community by imagining how many different flags we would need to fly in our hall to represent everyone here.

Key Stage 1, meanwhile, have been reflecting on kindness and belonging. We listened to the story of a young girl who campaigned for supermarkets to add pockets to girls’ trousers so they were just as practical as boys’. We also learned about the meaning of community, looking at an inspiring example from the UK where local residents came together to help a much-loved bookshop move to its new location.



School Clubs and Enrichment

Over the past few weeks, I have been meeting with teachers to review our offer of school clubs, and I’m excited to share that every class teacher will run a club at some point during the academic year, alongside the existing wide range of sports clubs run by Clubszone.

We will send details directly to the year groups relevant to each club closer to the time, but some of the new opportunities include Computing Club, Curiosity Club, Construction Club, Mindfulness Club, and even a lunchtime Storytime Club for our younger children. A big thank you goes to our busy teachers for giving their time to make these clubs possible for our children.



In addition to clubs, we continue to seek ways of enriching the curriculum through trips, use of our local area, and visits from outside experts. For example, later this year Severn Trent will be running water cycle workshops with our older pupils, and a speaker from The Humanist Association will be helping children learn about Humanism.

If you are able to offer — or know someone who could offer — enriching experiences for our children, we would love to hear from you.

Reminder: 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.

PTFA AGM

The PTFA AGM was held this week – thank you to everyone who made it!

The PTFA had another fantastic year raising funds for our children. Thank you so much to our co-chairs Katie Heelas and Daisy Shayler and all of the amazing people who have volunteered their time to support at PTFA events. Your generosity and hard work will have a hugely positive impact on our children.

PTFA events for the coming year include an Apple Day stall, a Halloween dress up day at school, a Christmas disco, Christmas Jumper Day, 'Books and Bakes' for World Book Day, Mothers and Fathers Day pop up shops and a Spring Fair. Look out for more information/details from the PTFA themselves!



Reminder: 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** 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**.

Donisthorpe Primary School
Do you have a child that is due to start school in August 2026?
Come and visit our wonderful school! Situated in the heart of the National Forest; we pride ourselves on being at the centre of the community, providing a safe, happy, welcoming environment for children, parents and visitors.

- Meet our dedicated staff
- Take a tour of the EYFS base
- Discover the range of opportunities available for your child
- Feel free to ask any questions you might have
- Wrap around care 7.30am to 6.00pm

OPEN EVENING FOR PARENTS
TUESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 6.30PM TO 7.30PM

Contact us to book your place!
01530 270371
office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk
www.donisthorpeprimary.org

Reminder: EYFS parents (2025 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.

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.



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 purple 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.

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.

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

Regards,



Jamie Williamson
Headteacher