

EYFS CURRICULUM UPDATE



SPRING TERM 1

Welcome

Welcome back to the spring term! We hope you had a magical Christmas and a relaxing break. Thank you so much for your continued help and support throughout the autumn term. We're so proud of all the progress the children have made and the lovely memories we've created. This term promises to be just as exciting, with plenty of fun, learning, and growth ahead. We're looking forward to all the wonderful moments the spring term will bring. Thank you again for all that you do to support us and the children!

Spring Term Topics

This term's theme is "Who Lives in a House Like This?" Throughout the term, we will be exploring our local area, travelling with Paddington on his journey to London, and discovering what life is like in Greenland. We will then move on to learning about animal habitats before concluding our explorations with Lunar New Year celebrations.

We will also be launching Wellie Walk Wednesdays, giving us the opportunity to take the children out into nature, make use of our brand-new outdoor classroom, enjoy stories outdoors, and develop communication and language skills in a rich, engaging environment.



Reading in EYFS

At Donisthorpe Primary School, we know that reading is the key to success – it opens the door to learning across every subject and helps children develop confidence, imagination, and a love of stories. Like any skill, reading only improves with regular practice, and we greatly value your support in helping your child on their reading journey.

In school, we will read individually with the children twice per week, but to make real progress, it's important that they read at home at least four times each week. Little and often makes a big difference!

Your child will receive:

A phonics reading book every Monday and Thursday – this book is carefully matched to their current phonics level and should be one they can read mostly independently.

A reading for pleasure book each Monday – to share and enjoy together at home.

To help you support your child, we'll be sending examples of reading support sessions and suggested comments you can write in their reading records alongside this email.

In addition, phonics homework will be issued every 2–3 weeks, including words to practise reading and writing at home. To support this activity, letter cards will also be provided.



Personal, Social and Emotional

Children will learn to build positive relationships, show kindness, recognise good friendship qualities, and manage conflicts. They will also develop self-management skills, including healthy habits, understanding the impact of their behaviour, and using strategies to manage their emotions.



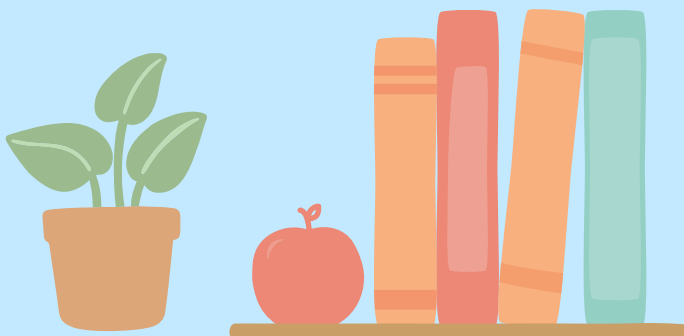
Literacy

Children are developing writing skills, forming letters correctly, writing short sentences, and spelling familiar words. In reading, they are blending sounds, building fluency, and enjoying both fiction and non-fiction texts. They practise retelling stories, predicting outcomes, and using new vocabulary in play.

Expressive Art and Design

Children explore textures, colours, and different tools to create 2D and 3D artwork, drawing from observation and imagination. They plan designs, mix colours, and join materials with confidence.

They also sing, play instruments, make music, and take part in dance. Through role play and story acting, they develop storylines, take on different characters, and collaborate with others.



Communication and Language

This term, children will be developing their speaking and listening skills by taking part in conversations, asking questions, and sharing ideas. They will enjoy listening to stories, rhymes, poems, and songs, as well as exploring non-fiction texts to build new vocabulary and understanding. Children will practise following instructions and retelling familiar stories in their own words. Through discussion and imaginative play, they will use talk to organise their thinking, solve problems, and explain their ideas with growing confidence.

Physical Development

Children will continue to develop their gross motor skills by strengthening their core muscles, improving balance, and combining movements with increasing control and confidence. They will practise a range of ball skills, including throwing, catching, kicking, and aiming, as well as learning to jump safely and move confidently on and off equipment. Fine motor skills will be supported through activities that develop pencil control and early handwriting, including using a tripod grip, cutting around more complex shapes with scissors, and building dexterity through threading and manipulating small objects.

Maths Development

Children are exploring numbers to 10, including counting, matching numerals, and finding one more or one less. They are learning number bonds, composing numbers, and using part-whole models. In patterns and measurement, children compare mass, capacity, length, and height, explore 3D shapes, make pairs, combine groups, and create simple repeated patterns.



Understanding the World

Children learn about the past, comparing story characters and exploring how life has changed over time. They discover different cultures and communities, special places, and celebrations, and compare life locally with other countries. In the natural world, they observe plants and animals, explore seasonal changes, and begin to understand life cycles and animal habitats.

PE

Our EYFS children will continue to take part in two PE lessons each week this half term. One of these sessions will be led by our sports coach, and the other will be taught by Mrs Pacey.

- Thursday: Children should come to school wearing their outdoor PE kit each Thursday for their session with the sports coach.
- Friday: The second PE lesson will be taught by Mrs Pacey. For this session, children will change into their indoor PE kit at school.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child be prepared and ready for PE each week.



Milk

Once your child turns five years old, they will no longer be eligible for free school milk. If you would like your child to continue having milk during the school day, please visit our school website for further information on how to arrange and pay for this.

