



21st February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE – 21ST FEBRUARY 2024

Welcome back after the half term break! It was so lovely to be able to hold our first whole school parents' evening in three years and to see so many of you coming through the doors this week and we look forward to seeing those parents with a Send Review with their Parents' Evening next week. We have lots of exciting learning and events coming up this half term that we can't wait to share with you.

The children have settled back into the routine brilliantly after the break, and it's been wonderful hearing about all of their adventures over the last week. They are full of energy and enthusiasm, which will serve them well as we dive into some new learning.

Building Update:

Over the half term break, we made great progress on the building work. The school hall has now been completed and the new external doors have been fitted. We were also able to remove the portakabins. We are now awaiting the rest of the flooring to be installed in Key Stage 1 and Reception, along with some final playground rectification work. I have been in close communication with the DFE to ensure this remaining work is completed as swiftly as possible to minimize disruption to the children's learning and play times. We are so pleased with how the building work is transforming our school, and are looking forward to enjoying the new facilities. Thank you for your patience and understanding while the improvements are being made.

PE Provision:

We are excited to announce that our sports lead, Mr Burke, has been offered an amazing 4 week coaching opportunity in Arizona starting March 1st. This is a fantastic chance for Mr Burke to expand his skills and bring back new ideas. While he is away, Miss Lyndz will be co-ordinating our school's sports programme. She will be working closely with Leger Sport, who already provide specialist coaching and run our inter-school competitions. Miss Lyndz organised our recent swimming gala, which was a huge success. We know our sports programme will continue to thrive under Miss Lynz and Leger Sport's leadership. When Mr Burke returns, we look forward to hearing all about his experiences. We are so pleased he has this opportunity to further his professional development.

Reminder - World Book Day:

World Book Day is coming up on **Thursday 7th March**, and we have a week of exciting reading-themed activities planned. On World Book Day itself, children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character or in comfortable clothing to spend the day reading. We will be linking up with staff from Saltersgate Infant School for some shared reading sessions over video call. The children will also have fun trying to guess the identity of our 'Masked Readers' from clues given in special assemblies throughout the week. It promises to be a fabulous book-filled week celebrating reading and storytelling.



Reminder - Red Nose Day:

Red Nose Day is nearly here! On **Friday 15th March** we will be holding a non-uniform day to help raise money for Comic Relief. Children are invited to wear something red or non-uniform. If you would like to make a donation to this charity the option will appear on ParentPay. We will also be holding a joke telling competition, with a little prize for the best joke in each class.

Reminder SEND Review Week:

W/c Monday 26th February – parents of pupils with a SENd Support Plan will have been contacted by their child's class teacher to make an appointment. During this appointment you will have the first part discussing your child's parents' evening then lead into the review of your child's support plan.

Reminder - Easter:

Details about all our Easter activities including the dates and times of assemblies can be found at the end of this update.

Mr & Mrs Mellors our Music Curriculum Singing Specialists from Rainbow Connection are currently working with pupils in Y1/Y5 during our curriculum music lessons and will be joining pupils at their Easter assemblies to showcase their excellent singing talents.

Easter Chocolate Raffle

Our Easter Chocolate Raffle will be available at each of the class assemblies, to be drawn after the last assembly. Any donations of chocolate for prizes will be gratefully received in the main school office.

Teacher Led Tuition Sessions:

Any pupils to be invited to the next set of sessions which start w/c Monday 26th February for 5 weeks have been emailed with the relevant details.

Richmond Hill Ambassadors:

We're so proud to announce this year's Ambassadors. Following a rigorous recruitment process the following children are busy representing their year groups.

Year 1 – Zach, Penelope, Charlie, Thomas

Year 2 – Nero, Audrey, Joseph, Sadie

Year 3 – Rosaria, Joe, Jessica, Holly

Year 4 – Freya, Libby, George, Noah

Year 5 – Alvi, Sienna, Caleb, Nicole, Neive

Year 6 – Lauren, Axel, Baden, Lilly

Road Safety and Parking:

The staggered start and finish times have up to now eased the parking problem around school and we have received far fewer complaints from local residents. However, courteous parking is essential to help to keep community relations positive. Please respect local residents' property and their access to their own driveways as well as parking sensibly in the areas immediately outside school - please do not park on the kerb too close to the crossing near the KS2 gate as well as on the yellow zig zag lines near the KS1 gate. As our children and parents need to line up outside the school gates and are adjacent to vehicles parking in the lay-bys, may we please ask for your support by keeping engines turned off when parked to avoid anyone inhaling damaging vehicle fumes.

We would also like to remind you that the academy car park is not for general use by parents. If use of our disabled parking spaces due to a child's access issues is required, then please contact the Academy Office.

Our gates are locked at certain times during the day to ensure the health and safety of the children and parents walking past the gates. They will be locked at the beginning and end of the school day for this reason. We also request that parents do not enter the academy car park either by vehicle or on foot, including when collecting children from After School Clubs/Hillbillies Before and After School Childcare/Teacher-led Tuition Sessions. If you are eligible, and have a need to use our designated disabled parking spaces on a regular basis, please contact a member of the Academy Office Team. Doncaster Council's Safer Neighbourhood Team no longer provide a Crossing Patrol Service outside our school. Parents should be aware that there is no obligation on the Authority to ensure that there is a daily crossing patrol. There is a Puffin Crossing near the KS2 gate. Children and parents are advised to use the crossing when arriving/leaving school for health and safety reasons.

We also need to stress to parents that children on their way to/from school should avoid attempting to make a detour through the Levett School grounds (next to the KS2 gate). The car park in the grounds can be very busy and we need to keep our children safe. The Levett school also politely ask our parents not to park in their car park, even if the barrier is not in operation, as they have restrictions in place.

To ensure the safety of your children, your co-operation would be greatly appreciated

Class Visits:

We have several class visits going out of school over the next few weeks, so could parents/carers be mindful that parking may be restricted at the beginning and end of the school day as coaches will need to park in the areas immediately in front of school to enable the safe departure/return of pupils.

Easter Holidays

School closes	3.15pm on Thursday 28 th March
Easter Holidays	Friday 29 th March to Friday 12 th April – inc.
School re-opens	Monday 15 th April

Regards

Yours sincerely



Debbie Secker
Principal



A part of
**The
Rose**
Learning Trust



PARENTS' DIARY DATES

DAY	DATE	EVENT
w/c Monday	26 th February	SEND Review Week
w/c Monday	26 th February	Teacher-Led Tuition Sessions – new set of sessions starts for 5 weeks (invited pupils)
Thursday	7 th March	World Book Day
Monday & Tuesday	11 th & 12 th March	Y4 Practical Pedestrian Training with Doncaster Council Road Safety Trainers
Tuesday	12 th March	Y2 The History Van Visit into School
Tuesday	12 th March	Spelling Bee Competition at Hill House School. Preliminary rounds for Y5/Y6 pupils will start soon in school with the winners being invited to take part in the competition to be held at Hill House.
Wednesday	13 th March	Y6 Visit to Crucial Crew
Wednesday	13 th March	Y1 Visit to the Tropical Butterfly House
Thursday	14 th March	Y4 Visit to Austerfield
Friday	15 th March	Red Nose Day
Friday	22 nd March	PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE FOR FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT EASTER EVENTS Reception/KS1 pupils to bring their Easter Hats into school ready for the next week's assemblies KS2 pupils to bring their competition entries into school for displaying
Monday	25 th March	Year Group Assemblies in the Main School Hall Parents/Carers invited. Approx 30 mins duration. 9.00am Year 3 10.00am Year 4 11.00am Year 6 Afternoon assemblies for Y1/Y5 – all pupils will return to their classrooms at the end of their assemblies and leave school via their usual exits at their normal finishing time. 1.30pm Year 5 2.15pm Year 1
Wednesday	27 th March	Year Group Assemblies in the Main School Hall Parents/Carers invited. Approx 30 mins duration. 9.00am Reception 10.00am Year 2 11.00am Nursery
Friday	29 th March	Easter Holidays – school closed to pupils (1 day & 2 weeks - Friday 29 th March up to and including Friday 12 th April)
Monday	15 th April	School Re-opens

Reminder to Y5 parents that the usual spring visit will take place in the summer term this year as it is a theatre visit and is only available in May.

EASTER 2024

Year group assemblies will be held in the main school hall to celebrate pupils' learning.

Nursery, Reception and KS1 pupils are asked to create an Easter Hat which will be worn for their assemblies – these are to be created at home and brought into school on the specified day.

KS2 pupils are invited to enter our Easter Egg Competition to make/decorate an Easter egg creation at home, which will be displayed in the hall for parents to view prior to assemblies. The eggs can either be artificial or hard boiled and decorated. Previous entries have been for example 'Dance Egg on Ice', 'Eggstreme Sports' or just beautifully decorated, possibly with jewels/feathers etc. Pupils can display their entries on a base, such as a flat piece of cardboard or by using a box.

Our Easter Chocolate Raffle will be available at each event, to be drawn after the last assembly. Any donations of chocolate for prizes will be gratefully received in the main school office.

RECEPTION/KS1 Easter Hats and KS2 Easter Egg Competition		
Friday 22nd March	<u>Reception/KS1 pupils</u> to bring their Easter Hats into school to their classrooms ready for the following week's assemblies.	
Friday 22nd March	<u>KS2 pupils</u> on arrival at school to bring their competition entries into the hall via the main school entrance for displaying.	
RECEPTION/KS1/KS2 Class Assemblies Main School Hall – Parents/Carers to enter/exit via the main school entrance – approx. 30 mins duration School uniform to be worn but could pupils please bring a brightly coloured t-shirt/top in a <u>named bag to get changed into</u> to wear during their assemblies Please note:- afternoon performances – all children will return to their classrooms at the end of their performances and leave school via their usual exits at their normal finishing time		
Monday 25th March	Year 3 Year 4 Year 6 Year 5 Year 1	9.00am 10.00am 11.00am 1.30pm 2.15pm
Wednesday 27 th March	Reception Year 2 Nursery	9.00am 10.00am 11.00am – please see below
NURSERY Could Nursery children please come to school already dressed in a brightly coloured t-shirt/top/own clothes on the 27th March for their assembly		
Tuesday 26th March and Wednesday 27th March	Easter Hats Nursery children to bring their Easter Hats into school as follows:- Beginning of Week Children/30 hours Children on Tuesday 26th March. End of Week Children please bring their Easter Hat along to the assembly on Wednesday 27th.	
Wednesday 27th March	Assembly Time for <u>ALL</u> Nursery children 11.00am-11.30am in the Main School Hall Parents to enter/exit the hall via the main school entrance <u>Beginning of Week Nursery Children</u> should go to Nursery at their normal registration time at 8.35am. Following the end of the assembly parents are asked to go to collect their child from nursery using the normal KS1 gate to access the nursery classroom exit. <u>30 hours Nursery Children</u> – if your child stays all day in nursery please take your child to Nursery for the start of their session for registration as normal at 8.35am. Lunch-time arrangements will remain the same before they spend their normal afternoon session in nursery. <u>End of the Week Nursery Children</u> – please bring your child to the Main School Office via the main school entrance for 10.45am where they will be met by nursery staff. Following the assembly these children will have lunch with us, before they spend their normal Wednesday afternoon session in nursery. The payment option for this extra lunch will show on your Parentpay account. If they normally have a packed lunch please bring that with you and leave it with nursery staff on your arrival at 10.45am.	

