



20th March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE – 20TH MARCH 2024

As we approach the Easter holiday, there are still plenty of events happening at the school over the next week. We wanted to take a moment to highlight some of the special events and remind you about them, so please find the previously issued calendar at the end of this update.

Developing Excellence Plan

Our Developing Excellence Plan relies on feedback from parents. We have reviewed survey results carefully. This data has guided priorities and initiatives for the next 3 years along with pupil, staff and stakeholder voice. Parent voice is critical for creating a strong plan to serve our children and families. Thank you for your suggestions and participation. Below are the 4 key priorities identified from our collective information gathering and data exploration;

- Excellent teaching for every child
- An excellent curriculum for every child strengthening inclusivity for a diverse future
- Excellent standards of behaviour, attitudes, attendance and safeguarding
- Excellent targeted support for every child that needs it

Thank you:

We would like to extend a huge thank you to parents, carers, grandparents and wider supporters of Richmond Hill, for your kind donations to renovate our Early Years' provision. We are all excited to see this area develop over the Easter break.

Forest School Developments:

We have two exciting developments in the pipeline to create forest school areas for the school to utilise. Firstly, through this year's sports project 'Creating Active Schools' we have been successful in securing a bid we placed for £10,000 to develop the Copse area on the school field and train staff. A further development project is also being developed to create an area at the front of school with direct access from the Key Stage 1 yard. More details on this to follow.

KS2 Statutory Assessments

When we return after the Easter break we will only have 19 school days before our Year 6 pupils will be taking their Key Stage 2 SATs (Statutory Assessment Tests) from Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th May 2024. The SATs are nothing to worry about and are the same as other tests that our children have taken during their time at Richmond Hill, with the main difference being that they are marked externally and not by school staff. It is important our children just try their best and show the confidence and resilience they have developed over these years. Details about the test schedule and the specific arrangements for the week will be sent out to Y6 parents shortly. May we also let our Y6 parents know that all Y6 pupils throughout the month of June undergo statutory assessment of writing. Therefore, it is important that children are attending well throughout this period in order to have the most up to date collection of their writing.



Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who contributed recently to Comic Relief for Red Nose Day – you helped to raise a fantastic £230.50.

Reminder - Easter:

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

Friday 22nd March

Reception/KS1 pupils to bring their Easter hats into school to their classrooms ready for next week's assemblies.

KS2 pupils on arrival at school to bring their Easter Egg Competition entries into the hall via the main school entrance for displaying.

Monday 25th March – Year Group Assemblies

Wednesday 27th March – Year Group Assemblies

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 any chocolate for prizes will be gratefully received in the main school office. Thank you to William in Y1 and his mum for our first donation of some lovely chocolate eggs.

Improvements to our lunch-time provision

We are delighted to let you know that after the Easter break, Doncaster Schools' Catering, our external school meals provider, will be offering more variety and choice to our pupils. You will be able to choose one of two main meal options, both options include vegetables and the dessert of the day. The option for a jacket potato has now been removed as there has been a decline in demand for this meal. A copy of the new summer menu from Doncaster Schools' Catering available from after Easter, is attached for your information.

We have also been experiencing fluctuations in the meals booking system between Schools' Catering and Parentpay, which has caused problems both for parents and school. We hope the improvements to the booking system which will be activated from 1st April, will help solve these issues and would like to offer the following information to parents:-

- May we remind parents that all children should remain on their **primary meal choice every day** – either school dinners **OR** packed lunches and not a combination of both during any one week.

This helps to avoid any confusion during morning registration as we are able to identify each child's consistent primary meal choice and ensure either appropriate meal bookings and payments have been completed or a packed lunch provided.

It also enables efficient planning for food ordering and preparation of meal quantities in the kitchen, therefore reducing food waste.

The only exception to this would be if your child has a specific dietary requirement which is detailed in your child's individual health and dietary care plan discussed and confirmed with your child's class teacher and/or our SENCO.

- For children who prefer to bring a packed lunch to school as their primary meal choice, please remember not to include nuts/nut products, for example chocolate sandwich spread, and also no glass bottles.

School Meal Bookings:

- The meal booking system will be accessible by parents from 1st April, please ensure your booking is complete by 8.30am on Friday 12th April 2024 ready for our return after the Easter break.



- Meal bookings should be made via ParentPay at least a week in advance, although it will be possible to book up to 3 weeks in advance.
 - Log onto your Parentpay account and select Main Meal Option 1 OR Main Meal Option 2 – both options include the dessert of the day, click into your basket and make your payment.
 - After Easter the new weekly deadline will be **8.30am every Friday** for the following week's bookings (this would change to Thursdays if we are closed on a particular Friday e.g. training day etc).
 - ALL meals need to be booked via Parentpay including:
 - All meals which need to be paid for
 - All meals for children eligible for free school meals from Doncaster Council
 - All meals for our Reception/Y1/Y2 children who are all eligible for UFSM (universal free school meals).
 - Meal bookings for Reception/Y1/Y2 and any individual pupils eligible for Doncaster FSM will show as no cost – but you still need to select your child's meal choice on ParentPay.
 - Nursery children are not eligible for UFSM.
- Important:**
- The meal booking system will not enable completion of meal bookings if there is an outstanding balance.
 - If parents do not complete their child's school meals booking on time, this results in difficulties for the service. We try to avoid any inconvenience to parents, but if meal bookings for the week are not completed on time and you have not provided your child with a packed lunch, you will be contacted shortly after morning registration to bring a packed lunch into school.
 - If you are experiencing difficulties with making the necessary meal booking due to the associated payment for your child's meals, then please do not hesitate to contact a member of our office team or a member of our Inclusion team in confidence.

Note: due to the update to the booking system being implemented over the Easter break please do not worry if you have any problems with your booking as we will ensure a manual check of meal choices is carried out on the first day back after Easter.

Teacher Led Tuition Sessions:

The current block of teacher-led tuition sessions will finish next week w/c 25th March. Any pupils to be invited to the next set of sessions which start w/c Monday 15th April will be contacted by email with the relevant details before the Easter break.

Parents' Diary Dates April-July 2024:

A copy of important dates for your diary taking place after Easter up to the summer holidays, can be found at the end of this update.

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



PARENTS' DIARY DATES – MARCH-APRIL 2024

DAY	DATE	EVENT
Friday	22 nd March	PLEASE SEE THE END OF THIS UPDATE 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



PARENTS' DIARY DATES – APRIL-JULY 2024

DAY	DATE	EVENT
Tuesday	16 th April	National Offer Day for Reception September 2024 places
Friday	26 th April	Trust Charity Event for our chosen charity the Yorkshire Air Ambulance – non-uniform day, donations to the charity via Parentpay
Tuesday	30 th April	Y6 Parents' Residential Meeting – virtual – 4.00pm
Monday	6 th May	May Day – school closed to pupils
Monday-Thursday	13 th May- 16 th May	KS2 SATs
Friday	17 th May	Y6 End of SATs Celebrations 1.00pm-3.10pm – details to follow
Wednesday	15 th May	Y5 Visit to the Alhambra Theatre - Wicked
Thursday	23 rd May	Y1 The History Van – Victorians - visit into school
MAY HALF TERM		School closes on Friday 24 th May 2024 at 3.15pm School Closed Monday 27 th May-Friday 31 st May School re-opens Monday 3 rd June
Monday	3 rd June	Y6 History of the Holocaust - visit into school
w/c Mon	3 rd June	Y4 MTC Tests week 1/2
Tuesday	4 th June	Y3 Visit to Murton Park
Wednesday	5 th June	Class Photos – Photographer in school
Wednesday	5 th June	Year 1 Parents' Meeting - Phonics Screen Check - virtual
Thursday	6 th June	Y5 RSE Talk with School Nursing Team
Thursday	6 th June	Y4 Visit to Weston Park Museum
w/c Mon	10 th June	Y4 MTC Tests week 2/2
w/c Mon	10 th June	Y1 Phonics Screening Tests and Y2 Phonics re-tests
Thursday	13 th June	Y6 RSE Talk with School Nursing Team
Tuesday	18 th June	Visit to Hill House – Classics Experience Day – selected Y5 pupils
Wednesday	19 th June	Nursery Sports Day for all Nursery children at 11.00am
w/c Mon	24 th June	Healthy Week
Tuesday	25 th June	Sports Day 9.15am-10.30am - Reception/KS1 1.30pm-3.00pm - KS2
Wednesday	26 th June	Visit to Hill House – Science Experience Day – selected Y6 pupils
Friday	28 th June	Trust Choir – End of Year Choir Concert
Monday	1 st July	Y6 End of Year Summer Performance – in the Main School Hall - parents/carers invited – 3.30pm-4.15pm
Tuesday	2 nd July	Summer Disco for Reception/KS1 & KS2 – after school - details to follow
Wednesday- Friday	3 rd July- 5 th July	Y6 Residential Visit
Friday	5 th July	Reception Reptile Rendezvous visit into school
w/c Mon	8 th July	Transition – your child will spend time in their new class for September on Monday 8 th , Wednesday 10 th and Friday 12 th
Tuesday	9 th July	Big Sing Event at the Dome – selected Y4 (current pupils)
Thursday	11 th July	Y5 (current pupils) Visit to the Great Yorkshire Show
Tuesday	16 th July	Y6 Leavers' Disco 1.00pm-3.30pm
Wednesday	17 th July	Y2 Visit to Whitby
Friday	19 th July	School closes at 3.15pm for the summer holidays



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	Reception/KS1 pupils to bring their Easter Hats into school to their classrooms ready for the following week's assemblies.	
Friday 22nd March	KS2 pupils on arrival at school to bring their competition entries into the hall via the main school entrance for displaying.	
RECEPTION/KS1/KS2 Class Assemblies		
<p style="text-align: center;">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 – with the exception of Y2 who have previously been informed that they do not need to bring a brightly coloured top, just full school uniform 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</p>		
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		
<p style="text-align: center;">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</p>		
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 ALL 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.	

