



18th July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE – 18th July 2024

What an incredible year it's been! As we approach our final day of school it's hard to believe how quickly the year has passed. It has been wonderful to see just how much our children have grown and developed over the course of the year with fantastic accomplishments academically, socially and holistically with achievements extending far beyond the classroom. The dedication of our staff also is truly evident and appreciated.

And oh, how our school has transformed! The installation of our ground source heating system is not just an upgrade - it's a leap into a greener future. Our new Forest School area has brought learning outdoors in the most magical way, igniting curiosity and connection with nature which we cannot wait for the children to put to good use. The revamped playground has become a hub of activity, and our enhanced early years' space is nurturing our youngest learners like never before. We are not stopping there! Over the summer holiday, we're continuing our improvements:

- New flooring will be installed in the Nursery and Key Stage One areas;
- Our main entrance will be getting a fresh, welcoming look with new flooring;
- We're fitting new LED lighting throughout the school, further boosting our sustainability efforts;
- We are developing the KS2 Forest School.

These enhancements aren't just about aesthetics - they're about creating an environment that inspires learning, promotes well-being, and prepares our children for a bright future.

Farewell Assembly:

We had a lovely whole school assembly today to say goodbye to Mr Norton and also to our Year 6 pupils.

Mr Norton leaves us tomorrow to start his well earned retirement. He will be truly missed, all our love and best wishes Mr Norton.

As our Year 6 pupils prepare to leave us and move onto secondary school we would like to say how proud we are of their achievements and wish them well on their journey to their new schools.



Tomorrow - Friday 19th July: UNIFORM TO BE WORN

Bingo: All our pupils (Reception to Y6) are invited into the hall at various times during the morning session to take part in our very own Richmond Hill Bingo! Eyes down!!

Games Afternoon:

Children in **KS1/KS2** are allowed to bring a toy or a game to school, one which doesn't make too much noise and doesn't have too many small pieces. Please make sure items are clearly marked with your child's name on. It is advisable not to allow them to bring expensive or irreplaceable items, as the **school cannot be held responsible for breakages and losses.**

Children in **Nursery and Reception** do not need to bring their own toys, as games and activities will be arranged by their class teachers.

KS2 children can bring electronic devices/games consoles **but only if accompanied by permission from parents written in your child's diary or a signed note to be given to the class teacher.**

However, recharging of electronic devices/consoles is not allowed on school premises.

Please note:- electronic devices/games consoles must **not** be used to record videos, take photos, access chat rooms/social networking sites or send messages.

Y6 only – Y6 pupils with permission to bring a mobile phone to school may have access to their phones in the afternoon on airplane mode to play games only.

School Meal Bookings for September:

If you experience any problems booking your child's meals for the first week back in September only, please do not worry as we will complete a manual check of every child's meal choice during every morning registration and your Parentpay accounts will be adjusted accordingly.

The meal booking system for September 2024 is now open to parents to complete bookings. (The system will also allow you to make up to a full half term's meal bookings if you wish – from 3rd September-25th October).

The deadline to complete your booking for the first week back w/c Tuesday 3rd September is 8.30am on Friday 30th August 2024.

- Pupils moving from Y2 to Y3 in September – please remember Universal Free School Meal eligibility ends in Y2, so unless your child is eligible for Doncaster Council Free School Meals, payment will need to be made.
- Pupils new to school - access to ParentPay will only be possible once your child is formally admitted to school, details about how to create/log on to your ParentPay account will be sent home at the end of your child's first day in September. Academy office staff will manually book your child's meal preference in the interim during morning registration.

Please see the information at the end of this update which gives you more details.

Proposed Visits:

Details about year group visits for the autumn term will be available on our return in September.

Reminder of End/Start of Term Dates:

School closes for the summer holidays at 3.15pm Friday 19th July 2024

Start of the new term:

Monday 2nd September – Training Day 1 – school closed to pupils

Tuesday 3rd September – School re-opens to pupils (new nursery and new reception pupils staggered start dates).



Return to school in September:

We will send you a Principal's Update at the end of August before pupils return to school on the 3rd September giving you relevant information you will need to know in order for us to have a smooth transition into the new academic year.

As I reflect on this year, I'm filled with gratitude for our incredible school community. Your support, involvement, and enthusiasm have been the backbone of our success. Here's to a fantastic final day of school, a well-deserved summer break, and an even more exciting year ahead!

Yours sincerely



Debbie Secker
Principal



LUNCH/ARRANGEMENTS/SCHOOL MEAL BOOKINGS

May we remind parents of the following:-

- 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.
- Meal bookings should be made via ParentPay at least a week in advance, although it will be possible to book a full term 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.
- The 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.
- **Packed Lunches**
For children who prefer to bring a packed lunch to school from home, please remember not to include nuts/nut products, for example chocolate sandwich spread, and also no glass bottles.
- **Pupils new to Year 3 from September** – please remember Universal Free School Meal eligibility ended in Y2, so unless your child is eligible for Doncaster Council Free School Meals, payment will need to be made.
- **Pupils new to school – parents will only be able to** access ParentPay once your child is formally admitted to school (details about how to create/log on to your ParentPay account will be sent home at the end of your child's first day in September). Academy office staff will manually book your child's meal preference in the interim during morning registration.

