



10th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

### **PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE – 10TH JANUARY 2025**

Happy New Year to you all and many thanks on supporting our changed entry and exits this week as we had a wintery start to the new term. It has been a great first week back welcoming our children to the start of an exciting new spring term. We have a lot of updates and events coming up that we wanted to share with you. As always, please reach out to us with any questions you may have.

#### **Heartfelt Condolences:**

Our cherished colleague Miss Lewis, who has dedicated 25 years to our school and currently teaches Year 2, suffered a bereavement over the holidays with the sad loss of her partner James after a long and courageous battle with illness. As friends and colleagues, we have shared our love and condolences with Miss Lewis and her family during this very difficult time.

#### **New School Business Manager:**

We welcome Mrs Harmer to the school as our new Business Manager, she joins us from Sheffield University in a very similar role and is looking forward to developing in the role here at Richmond Hill.

#### **American Diner Theme Experience:**

A reminder that next week on **Thursday 16th January 2025**, we will be holding a special 'American Diner' themed lunch day. This will be a fun dining experience for **all** the children to enjoy, including Nursery who attend on Thursdays; even if your child normally has a packed lunch you can choose to book them a meal.

- Bookings to be completed via ParentPay as normal.
- Just to remind parents/carers that all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to universal free school meals, so you can book for them to enjoy the American diner experience without any extra cost.
- All children with a confirmed school meal booking for the 16<sup>th</sup> January will be able to choose on the day either beef burger or quorn hot-dog with ice-cream served with a brownie - all you need to do is choose the 'all day breakfast' option which will still show on Parentpay (apologies it is not possible to change this to American Diner).



### **Parents' Evenings for pupils in Reception to Year 6:**

Our Parents' Evenings will be taking place after February Half Term on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025:

- **Face to Face Appointments in school will be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 3.30-6.00pm**
- **Telephone Appointments will take place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 3.30-4.30pm**

### **Nursery Parents' Evenings:**

As our Nursery is nearly a full cohort of over 50 children, it is necessary for Miss Challinor to offer appointments over a longer time period.

- **Nursery Face to Face Appointments in school are available at various times Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 1.00pm-4.00pm and Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2.30pm-6.00pm**
- **Nursery Telephone Appointments will take place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February from 3.30-4.30pm**

The **booking system** to make a Parents' Evening appointment (for all pupils Nursery to Year 6) will be **open from 5.00pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January** and will **close at 9.00am on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025**. Please log on to your Arbor Parent Portal to make your booking. When the system opens, we would advise completing any bookings as soon as possible as office staff are term time only and will be unavailable during the half term break if you experience any difficulties.

### **Please see the attached guide for booking a parents' evening appointment.**

#### **Arrangements for all face to face Parents' Evening appointments in school**

Please enter/exit school via the main school entrance. You will be directed to your child's year group where one of the classrooms will be an allocated area to look through your child's work, before being invited into the adjoining classroom for your appointment at your allocated time.

Parents who have appointments in more than one year group can access other areas internally.

Nursery - please follow the directions to the waiting area when arriving in the Foundation area.

Please Note:-

If you experience problems completing a booking we would advise trying a different device such as a desktop computer/laptop/tablet and accessing the Arbor Parent Portal through the Arbor website – go to login-arbor.sc and not via the Arbor Parent App.

**SEND Review Week** – w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> March – parents of pupils with a SEND Support Plan will be contacted by their child's class teacher **before half term** to make a separate 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. **You do not need to book an appointment via the Arbor Parent Portal.**

### **Statutory Assessment Dates:**

This year's statutory assessment dates are shown below. It is crucial that children in these year groups attend school leading up to, and particularly during, the assessment period so they do not miss key review preparations and the statutory tests.

#### **KS2 SATs**

Year 6 pupils will be taking their Key Stage 2 SATs (Statutory Assessment Tests) from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025. 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.

### **Year 1 Phonics Screening Check**

The Phonics Screening Check for all Year 1 children and Y2 re-sits will take place during w/c 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025. We will be arranging a Parents' Meeting (virtually via Microsoft Teams) to give parents information about the Phonics Screening Check – details to follow.

### **Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check**

The MTC tests for our Year 4 pupils will take place during w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> June and w/c 9<sup>th</sup> June. More details to follow.

### **Earrings, Jewellery and Nails:**

Could we please remind parents about the expectations in school regarding pupils wearing earrings/ other jewellery and nail varnish/extensions. We are an active learning environment and it is unsafe for children to be wearing these items during the school day. We have seen a significant increase this week which has resulted in staff's time being taken away from pupils' learning in the classroom to deal with ensuring all pupils are safe and earrings are removed/covered appropriately.

- Earrings and other jewellery (except a simple watch) **are not to be worn** at school.
- If pupils come to school wearing jewellery we may ask them to remove it themselves, which may lead to accidental loss. For this reason it is much simpler if jewellery is not worn to school.
- If ears are newly pierced, pupils will be monitored and then we will ask them to remove earrings after six weeks. Earrings must be covered with tape during this six week period for health and safety reasons.
- Nail varnish and nail extensions are not appropriate for school and **should not be worn**.

### **World Book Day:**

We look forward to another exciting World Book Day 2025 at Richmond Hill on **Thursday 6th March** and would like our pupils to come to school dressed as their favourite book character – or in non-uniform. If your child is coming to school dressed as a book character please remember to avoid anything which may hinder their ability to enjoy the day and not forgetting sensible shoes and a suitable coat. We have received book tokens from the World Book Day organisers to be distributed to every pupil, which will be sent out shortly.

### **Red Nose Day:**

On **Friday 21st March** we will be celebrating Red Nose Day – Comic Relief and all our pupils can come to school with red noses/red nose t-shirts or just non-uniform. If you would like to make a donation which will be sent to Comic Relief, then the option to make a contribution will appear on ParentPay.

### **Easter:**

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

### **Richmond Hill Collaborations:**

We have recently been given a number of fantastic opportunities for our children to be involved in events with outside organisations. However, we are sometimes restricted by the event organisers regarding the targeted year groups and also the number of places.

Some of our Y5 children are going to visit Ridgewood school on 6<sup>th</sup> February to participate in an Arts International Event in partnership with the Cast Theatre. They will spend the day there completing a rehearsal, learning main sections and songs from Shrek. Transport and lunch costs are being met by Ridgewood School.

Some of our Y4 children are going to participate in this year's Big Sing which involves workshops in school with members of Opera North culminating in a performance with other schools from the region, accompanied by professional singers and members of the Orchestra of Opera North at the Dome.



Hill House School – we're looking forward to continuing our links with Hill House School with plans currently being finalised for some of our KS2 pupils to be involved in visits to Hill House for an experience day in Science as well as a Spelling Bee competition. Preliminary rounds of the Spelling Bee competition will be starting shortly in school to find our Richmond Hill winners who will go through to the Spelling Bee Final to be held at Hill House School.

### **Healthy Child Programme: Reception and Year 6 pupils**

Parents of children in Reception and Year 6 were sent a letter from the School Nursing Team on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 giving details about the height and weight screening as part of the Healthy Child Programme. Parents did not need to do anything further. However, it was the responsibility of parents to inform the School Nursing Team direct if they wished to decline consent by 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024. We have arranged for the Team to come into school to carry out the screening on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January.

### **Reception Admissions 2025/2026:**

A reminder to current nursery parents/carers – please ensure you have completed your child's application for a place in Reception starting September 2025 available on the Doncaster Council website. **Closing date 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

### **Teacher Led Tuition Sessions:**

The current block of sessions for selected pupils started this week w/c 6<sup>th</sup> January and will be completed during w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Any pupils to be invited to the next block of sessions which start w/c Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March will be sent details by email.

### **Term Dates 2025/2026:**

We usually follow the same pattern as Doncaster Council, but details of Richmond Hill's training days have yet to be confirmed and should be released after Easter. Once finalised we will ensure parents/carers receive a copy.

### **February Half Term:**

School closes	3.15pm on Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February
February Half Term	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February inc.
School re-opens	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February

### **Easter Holidays**

School closes	3.15pm on Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March
Easter Holidays	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> March to Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April – inc. – school closed to pupils
School re-opens	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> April

### **Easter Bank Holiday:**

School closes	3.15pm on Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April
Good Friday	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April – school closed to pupils
Easter Monday	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April – school closed to pupils
School re-opens	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April

Regards  
Yours sincerely



Debbie Secker  
Principal



**PARENTS' DIARY DATES - JANUARY-EASTER 2025**

<b>DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup> January	School Nurse Team in school for Y6 and Reception Heights and Measurements Screening
Friday	24 <sup>th</sup> January	Reception Visit in-school The History Van
Monday	27 <sup>th</sup> January	Parents' Evening appointment booking system opens at 5.00pm
Thursday	6 <sup>th</sup> February	Arts International Event Ridgewood School (some Y5 pupils)
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup> February	Y2 Visit in-school The History Van
Friday	14 <sup>th</sup> February	Y4 Visit in-school The History Van (re-arranged from autumn term)
Monday-Friday	17 <sup>th</sup> Feb-21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	February Half Term – school closed to pupils
Monday	24 <sup>th</sup> February	School re-opens
Monday	24 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Evening appointment booking system closes at 9.00am
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Evening Face to Face appointments in school Note: Nursery parents also have the option to book face to face appointments on Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February
Wednesday	26 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Evening Telephone Appointments
w/c Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup> March	SEND Review Week
Tuesday	4 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5/Y6 Spelling Bee Competition Final at Hill House School
Thursday	6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
w/c Monday	10 <sup>th</sup> March	Teacher-Led Tuition Sessions – new block of sessions starts (invited pupils)
Friday	21 <sup>st</sup> March	Red Nose Day
Friday	21 <sup>st</sup> 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 Easter Egg competition entries into school for displaying
Monday	24 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5 Visit in-school The History Van – provisional date tbc
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup> March	Y6 Visit to Crucial Crew
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup> March Afternoon assemblies for Y4/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.	Year Group Assemblies in the Main School Hall Parents/Carers invited. Approx 30 mins duration. 9.00am Reception 10.00am Year 2 1.30pm Year 4 2.15pm Year 5
Wednesday	26 <sup>th</sup> March Afternoon assemblies for Y3/Y6 – 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.	Year Group Assemblies in the Main School Hall Parents/Carers invited. Approx 30 mins duration. 9.00am Year 1 11.00am Nursery 1.30pm Year 3 2.15pm Year 6
Thursday	27 <sup>th</sup> March	Y4 Visit to Austerfield Y3 Visit in-school - The Twisted Knot Creative Workshop Y1 Visit to White Post Farm
Monday-Friday	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar-11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Easter Holidays – school closed to pupils
Monday	14 <sup>th</sup> April	School Re-opens
Friday	18 <sup>th</sup> April	Good Friday – school closed to pupils
Monday	21 <sup>st</sup> April	Easter Monday – school closed to pupils
Tuesday	22 <sup>nd</sup> April	School Re-opens

## EASTER 2025

**Year Group Assemblies: All Year Groups** - Parents and Carers are invited to join us in the main school hall accessible via the main entrance to celebrate pupils' learning. Assemblies will be 30 minutes duration (approx.). All children should wear their school uniform as usual.

**Easter Hats: 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.

**Easter Egg Competition: 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 assembly, 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 21st March	Reception/KS1 pupils to bring their Easter Hats into school to their classrooms ready for the following week's assemblies.	
Friday 21st 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		
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		
Tuesday 25th March	Reception Year 2 Year 4 Year 5	9.00am 10.00am 1.30pm 2.15pm
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Nursery – all children Year 3 Year 6	9.00am 11.00am – please see below 1.30pm 2.15pm
NURSERY Easter Hats and Class Assembly		
Tuesday 25th March and Wednesday 26th March	<b>Easter Hats</b> Nursery children to bring their Easter Hats into school as follows:- Beginning of Week Children/30 hours Children on Tuesday 25th March. End of Week Children please bring your child's Easter Hat along with them when they arrive at 10.45am before the start of their assembly on Wednesday 26th.	
Wednesday 26th March	<b>Assembly Time for ALL Nursery children 11.00am-11.30am</b> <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.	

