



13th February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE – 13TH FEBRUARY 2025

Reminders

As we are nearing the end of this half term we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the events taking place in school up to Easter (previously issued in the Principal's Update 10th January).

Parents' Evenings for pupils in Reception to Year 5:

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

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

Parents' Evenings for Year 6 pupils:

- **Face to Face Appointments in school will be held on Tuesday 25th February 1.30-6.00pm and Wednesday 26th February 1.30-3.30pm**
- **Telephone Appointments will take place on Wednesday 26th 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 24th February 1.00pm-4.00pm and Tuesday 25th February 2.30pm-6.00pm**
- **Nursery Telephone Appointments will take place on Wednesday 26th February from 3.30-4.30pm**

The **booking system** to make a Parents' Evening appointment (for all pupils Nursery to Year 6) has been **open** since 27th January and will **close at 9.00am on Monday 24th February 2025**. Please log on to your Arbor Parent Portal to make your booking. 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 3rd March – parents of pupils with a SENd Support Plan will have been contacted by their child's class teacher 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.**



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.

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 is 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.

Term Dates 2025/2026 including Training Days:

Please find a copy of the term dates including training days for the next academic year 2025/2026, attached for your information.

February Half Term:

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

Easter Holidays

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

Easter Bank Holiday:

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

School Meal Provision:

An update on the developments regarding our school meals provision was emailed to parents earlier this week. A copy can be found at the end of this Principal's Update.

Regards

Yours sincerely



Debbie Secker
Principal



PARENTS' DIARY DATES – FEBRUARY-EASTER 2025

DAY	DATE	EVENT
Monday-Friday	17 th Feb-21 st Feb	February Half Term – school closed to pupils
Monday	24 th February	School re-opens
Monday	24 th February	Parents' Evening appointment booking system closes at 9.00am
Tuesday	25 th February	Parents' Evening Face to Face appointments in school Note: Nursery parents and Year 6 parents also have additional appointments available on different days
Wednesday	26 th February	Parents' Evening Telephone Appointments
w/c Monday	3 rd March	SEND Review Week
Tuesday	4 th March	Y5/Y6 Spelling Bee Competition Final at Hill House School
Thursday	6 th March	World Book Day
w/c Monday	10 th March	Teacher-Led Tuition Sessions – new block of sessions starts (invited pupils)
Friday	21 st March	Red Nose Day
Friday	21 st 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 th March	Y5 Visit in-school Historical Interpretations
Tuesday	25 th March	Y6 Visit to Crucial Crew
Tuesday	25 th 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 th 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 th March	Y4 Visit to Austerfield Y3 Visit in-school - The Twisted Knot Creative Workshop Y1 Visit to White Post Farm
Monday-Friday	31 st Mar-11 th Apr	Easter Holidays – school closed to pupils
Monday	14 th April	School Re-opens
Friday	18 th April	Good Friday – school closed to pupils
Monday	21 st April	Easter Monday – school closed to pupils
Tuesday	22 nd April	School Re-opens



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	<u>Reception/KS1 pupils</u> to bring their Easter Hats into school to their classrooms ready for the following week's assemblies.	
Friday 21st 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		
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 th 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	Easter Hats 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	Assembly Time for ALL Nursery children 11.00am-11.30am <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.	

School Meals Provision – the following letter from our Business Manager was emailed to parents earlier this week:



I am writing to update you on developments regarding our school meals provision, which we are enhancing in response to feedback received from both pupils and parents.

Following recent conversations with our school community, we have arranged a collaborative meeting with Doncaster Schools' Catering Service at the end of February. This meeting will focus on reviewing menu options and incorporating suggestions from our pupils and families. We value your input and are committed to ensuring our meal service meets the expectations of our school community.

Doncaster Schools' Catering Service shares our commitment to continuous improvement and has worked with us to develop an approach that responds to your feedback while maintaining their high standards:

- Menus are analysed using specialised nutritional software to ensure compliance with Food Standards
- Comprehensive allergen information is provided for all meals
- Ingredients are sourced locally where possible, supporting our community
- Catering Staff receive regular training to maintain high standards

Our enhanced school meals provision continues to offer important benefits for our children:

- Shared dining experiences that build essential social skills
- Opportunities for children to develop confidence through meal choices
- Improved afternoon learning through proper nutrition
- Engaging theme days that make mealtimes special

In direct response to parent requests for more involvement in our catering service, representatives from Doncaster Schools' Catering Service will be attending parents' evening on Tuesday 25th February to:

- Present new menu options developed with pupil input
- Provide taster sessions of popular and new dishes
- Gather additional feedback from families
- Answer your questions about the service

We encourage all parents to visit the catering display and tasting station during parents' evening, even if you don't have a scheduled appointment. This is your opportunity to directly influence our meal service.

We appreciate the feedback that has led to these improvements and look forward to continuing this collaborative approach to providing excellent school meals for our pupils.

