



4th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Principal's Update 4th January 2023

Firstly, I'd like to offer you all our very best wishes for 2023 and hope you had a great Christmas break, enjoying the festivities with family and friends. The children have settled in well to the start of the spring term. We also look forward to welcoming our new nursery children who will be joining us from next week as early January admissions.

Communications:

We recognise how important the communication between school and parents/carers is and that is why we regularly keep you informed by sending messages/letters by text and email via our **Arbor** management information system.

We will continue to send **email** communications via Arbor, which has proven to be a very successful method, and would urge parents to check their email accounts on a regular basis for any whole school communications or information from your child's year group. The majority of parents also find a quick and easy way of communicating with school is by sending us an email to office@richmond.doncaster.sch.uk this account is checked regularly throughout the school day. You can also contact your child's class teacher direct by emailing the year group e.g – year6@richmond.doncaster.sch.uk although responses from teaching staff will be at the end of a school day.

However, the cost of sending **text messages** has drastically increased, so we will only send messages by text to parents/carers for urgent or time sensitive communications.

The **Arbor In-App Messaging** is a facility already included in our management information system so the cost is minimal. Some parents already communicate with school via **Arbor In-app Messages** so we would like to take this opportunity to encourage all parents to access it as we will be using this as an alternative to texts. This enables quick messages:-

- to be sent from school to parents/carers
- and for parents/carers to reply to messages as well as sending school a new message

You can access **Arbor In-app messages** from the communications section in the **Arbor Parent Portal**. Parents are familiar with the Arbor Parent Portal as this is where you can view your child's pupil profile and also book appointments for Parents' Evenings. You can access the Arbor Parent Portal in two ways:-

- Via the **Arbor App** – this is the mobile version of the Arbor Parent Portal, for use on mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets. You can download the Arbor App for free from either the Play Store for Android phones or the App Store for IOS. It also enables messages to be received as Push Notifications on your mobile device.
- Via the **Arbor website** - www.arbor-education.com to log on to your Arbor Parent Portal communications.

Teacher-Led Tuition Sessions:

The new sessions of teacher-led tuition will start from next week. If your child has been selected to participate in these sessions you will have been sent a letter via email earlier this week.

Pupils late at the start of the school day:

Attendance and a prompt start is really important and we know you share this by the good attendance Richmond Hill has. The new attendance procedures in September that were launched place emphasis on lateness as well as attendance. From the start of term our Attendance and Welfare staff are monitoring closely pupils arriving late to school. If children are persistently late, parents will be contacted to discuss the best way we can offer support or intervention. Gates will be closed promptly and any children arriving after session start times will need to enter via the main school entrance where they will be registered. At the end of the school day any child not collected by 3.20pm from their usual exit, should be collected from the main school office. This ensures the gates can be secured promptly to ensure pupils accessing our after school clubs, tuition sessions and Hillbillies are safe on site. We would like to remind you of the school start* and finish times for each year group:-

*the time your child should be settled in class, registered and ready for learning

Year Group	School Start time	School Finish time
Reception	8.45am	3.15pm
Year 1	8.40am	3.10pm
Year 2	8.45am	3.15pm
Year 3	8.45am	3.15pm
Year 4	8.40am	3.10pm
Year 5	8.45am	3.15pm
Year 6	8.40am	3.10pm
Nursery	8.35am Wednesdays for 15 hours children only Beginning of Week 8.35am-11.35am End of Week 12.00noon to 3.00pm	3.00pm

Government back to school advice Flu, Covid-19 and Scarlet Fever:

The UK Health Security Agency have issued advice to schools reminding people that winter illnesses continue to circulate at high levels and simple steps to follow to minimise the spread of illnesses. If your child is unwell and has a fever they should stay at home until the fever has resolved. The guidance can be found via the following link:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/back-to-school-advice-issued-amid-high-levels-of-flu-covid-19-and-scarlet-fever>

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 10th January – School Nurse in school - Y6 and Reception Heights & Measures

Friday 10th February – Training Day – school closed to pupils

Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February – Half Term

Tuesday 21st February - Parents' Evening – face to face

Wednesday 22nd February - Parents' Evening – telephone consultations

w/c 27th February – Parents' Evening and Review Week for pupils with SEND

Yours sincerely



Debbie Secker
Principal

The Rose Learning Trust.



TRANSFORMING FUTURES COLLABORATIVELY