



17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

### **PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE – 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024**

Welcome back to the start of an exciting new spring term at our school! We have a lot of updates and events coming up that we wanted to share with you.

Firstly, we hope you all had a wonderful and restful holiday season. The children and staff are refreshed and eager to dive back into learning and activities this term.

We are pleased to announce that over the break, the painting projects in the main hall and dining hall were completed. We can't wait for you to see the dazzling new look at our upcoming Easter assemblies and events. Speaking of which, please mark your calendars for our Easter events detailed at the end of the update.

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to complete our annual surveys last term. Your feedback is invaluable for helping shape the direction of our school. The senior leadership team will be reviewing your responses in conjunction with pupil and staff surveys over the next few weeks, as we integrate any identified areas into our 3-year strategic plan. We appreciate your partnership in making our school the best it can be.

In response to concerns raised in the survey regarding the KS2 playground, we have secured approval from the DFE to have repairs and patching completed. We are just waiting on final confirmation of timing, but want to assure you this is a priority project for us this term.

As you may have seen in recent media coverage, Year 2 statutory assessments (SATs) have been scrapped by the Department for Education. However, in line with all year groups, Year 2 will still complete summative assessments using optional SATs materials, as recommended by the DFE. This allows us to benchmark our children's progress, without the emphasis on formal exams. Rest assured, our Year 2 children will approach their assessments with familiarity and confidence.

We hope this update provides a helpful overview of what's in store this spring. As always, please reach out to us with any questions or feedback. Wishing all our students and families a wonderful start to the new term!

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### **Parents' Evenings for ALL pupils – Nursery to Year 6:**

Our Parents' Evenings will be taking place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

- **Telephone Appointments** will be held on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February from 3.30-4.30pm.**
- **Face to Face Appointments in school** will be held on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February from 3.15-6.15pm.**  
Please note **Nursery appointments will be available from 2.00pm.**
- The booking system to make an appointment will be **open from 5.00pm on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January** and will **close at 12.00 noon on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February.** 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 in case 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**

As all our classes are now back in the main school building, we are delighted we can now re-introduce the access arrangements we previously enjoyed.

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 now access other areas internally.

**SEND Review Week** – w/c Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February – parents of pupils with a SENd Support Plan will be 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.

### **Fundraising:**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our fundraising efforts during the autumn term. We are delighted to let parents know that our school community helped to raise a phenomenal amount of money for these wonderful good causes.

Macmillan Cancer Support - £359.32

Royal British Legion (Poppy Fund) - £405.14

Children in Need - £337.50

Save the Children - £360.50

### **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 13<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> 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.



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

The Phonics Screening Check for all Year 1 children and Y2 re-sits will take place during w/c 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> June and w/c 10<sup>th</sup> June. More details to follow.

### **World Book Day:**

We look forward to another exciting World Book Day 2024 at Richmond Hill on **Thursday 7th 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.

During w/c 4<sup>th</sup> March we welcome staff from Saltersgate Infant School to deliver some story telling sessions to our Reception and KS1 children, with our staff undertaking reciprocal visits to Saltersgate to deliver story telling sessions to their pupils.

### **Red Nose Day:**

On **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 shortly.

### **Easter:**

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

Mr & Mrs Mellors our Music Curriculum Singing Specialists from Rainbow Connection are currently working with pupils in Y1/Y5 during our curriculum music lessons and will be joining pupils at their Easter assemblies to showcase their excellent singing talents.

### **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 31<sup>st</sup> January 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 the play Matilda. 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 in July.

Hill House School – we're looking forward to continuing our links with Hill House School with plans currently being finalised for some of our pupils to be involved in visits to Hill House for experience days for Art, Classics and Science as well as a Spelling Bee competition.



**Teacher Led Tuition Sessions:**

The current set of sessions will be completed during w/c 5<sup>th</sup> February. Any pupils to be invited to the next set of sessions which start w/c Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February will be discussed with the relevant parents at parents' evening appointments in February.

**Term Dates 2024/2025:**

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.

**Training Day and February Half Term:**

School closes	3.15pm on Thursday 8th February
Training Day 3	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February - school closed to pupils
February Half Term	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February inc.
School re-opens	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February

**Easter Holidays**

School closes	3.15pm on Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March
Easter Holidays	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March to Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April – inc.
School re-opens	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April

Regards

Yours sincerely



Debbie Secker  
Principal



## PARENTS' DIARY DATES - JANUARY-EASTER 2024

DAY	DATE	EVENT
Monday	29 <sup>th</sup> January	Parents' Evening appointment booking system opens at 5.00pm
Wednesday	31 <sup>st</sup> January	Arts International Event Ridgewood School (some Y5 pupils)
Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup> February	Y3 Puppet Workshop Visit into School
Thursday	8 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Evening appointment booking system closes at 12.00 noon
Friday	9 <sup>th</sup> February	Training Day 3 – school closed to pupils
w/c Monday	12 <sup>th</sup> February	February Half Term – school closed to pupils
Monday	19 <sup>th</sup> February	School re-opens
Monday	19 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Evening Telephone Consultations
Tuesday	20 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Evening Face to Face in School
Wednesday	21 <sup>st</sup> February	Reception Visit to Doncaster Danum Museum
w/c Monday	26 <sup>th</sup> February	SEND Review Week
w/c Monday	26 <sup>th</sup> February	Teacher-Led Tuition Sessions – new set of sessions starts for 5 weeks (invited pupils)
Thursday	7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Tuesday	12 <sup>th</sup> March	Y2 The History Van Visit into School
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup> March	Y6 Visit to Crucial Crew
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup> March	Y1 Visit to the Tropical Butterfly House
Thursday	14 <sup>th</sup> March	Y4 Visit to Austerfield
Friday	15 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day
Friday	22 <sup>nd</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 competition entries into school for displaying
Monday	25 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Holidays – school closed to pupils (1 day & 2 weeks - Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March up to and including Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April)
Monday	15 <sup>th</sup> April	School Re-opens

Reminder to Y5 parents that the usual spring visit will take place in the summer term this year as it is a theatre visit and is only available in May.



## 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.

<b>RECEPTION/KS1 Easter Hats and KS2 Easter Egg Competition</b>		
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.	
<b>RECEPTION/KS1/KS2 Class Assemblies</b>		
<b>Main School Hall – Parents/Carers to enter/exit via the main school entrance – approx. 30 mins duration</b> <b>School uniform to be worn but could pupils please bring a brightly coloured t-shirt/top</b> <b>in a named bag to get changed into to wear during their assemblies</b> <b>Please note:- afternoon performances – all children will return to their classrooms at the end of their performances and</b> <b>leave school via their usual exits at their normal finishing time</b>		
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 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception Year 2 Nursery	9.00am 10.00am 11.00am – please see below
<b>NURSERY</b>		
<b>Could Nursery children please come to school already dressed in a brightly coloured t-shirt/top/own clothes</b> <b>on the 27<sup>th</sup> March for their assembly</b>		
Tuesday 26th March and Wednesday 27th 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 26th March. End of Week Children please bring their Easter Hat along to the assembly on Wednesday 27th.	
Wednesday 27th March	<b>Assembly Time for ALL Nursery children 11.00am-11.30am in the Main School Hall</b> 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.	

