



RICHARD TAYLOR

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Autumn Term 2021!



Key Dates

8th October Walk to School Day

10th October World Mental Health Day

14th Oct Harvest Festival

15th Oct Tempest Photographs in School.

20th Oct Parents' Evening Early

21st Oct Parents' Evening Late.

22nd Oct Staff Training Day

25th Oct Half Term

11th Nov New Parents' Reading Evening.

We are delighted to see all of our children, including our newest starters settling so well into their new classes. As we begin to leave behind many of the more significant restrictions we are still very aware of the need to be very aware of the impact that Covid can have on life in school. As a school we have been managing identified cases of Covid on a regular basis this half term.

Our number one priority is to provide every child with the high quality learning opportunities, targeted catch up programmes and enriching social experiences that they desperately need after the disruption caused by Covid.

To help us achieve this successfully we ask that every member of our community works together, following the rules which remain in place to allow us to keep all of our classes open for the benefit of every child. Thank you.

Up-Coming Events

The Autumn Term is always one of the busiest of the year and we are determined to ensure that we provide our children with the widest range of experiences as changes to Covid restrictions begin to take effect.

There are a number of special days in our calendar for this term including: Walk to School Days, The Great Big Green Week and World Mental Health Days. All of these occasions enrich our curriculum and support our school values.

We will also be holding our Harvest Festival on Thursday 14th October with all produce donated being shared with the Harrogate Food Bank.

We all enjoyed the M&M Production, Treasure Island, as a back to school treat.

Before the end of half term we will be holding our first Parents' Evenings of the new year and shortly after half term we will be holding our annual Scholastic Book-fair. Remember to check the website and class Seesaw pages for events involving your child's class.

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Friends News



Friends of Richard Taylor welcome new and familiar faces, if you would like to get involved or have any fundraising ideas we would love to hear from you. Our email address is friendsofrichtartaylor@gmail.com

There are already plans for a Friends Christmas Shopping Event, in addition to the Christmas Fair, which is one of the major fundraising events of the year.

Richard Taylor also offers a prayer support group. Any prayer requests can be emailed to prayeratrichardtaylor@gmail.com . All requests are treated confidentially. When possible we meet together.

Lunchtime News

We are delighted to be able to begin the new year with our own kitchen team led by our wonderful head cook and catering manager Jo.

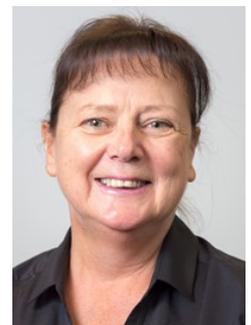
The school's meals are prepared with fresh, local produce and the children are already enjoying their lunches again.

The menus work on a three week cycle and can be found on the school's website.



We have made a couple of changes to improve the lunchtime experience for all of our children and one that has already proved very popular is the introduction of Bistro Buddies, see picture. Some of the older children in school have volunteered to support the youngest children, helping them to enjoy their lunchtime and learn from wonderful role models.

To support lunchtimes, we have also created new play zones where the children can choose between areas for free creative play, ball and equipment games and a quiet wellbeing area.



Mr. Paul Tennyson

I am very sorry to announce the very sad loss of Mr. Paul Tennyson, former headteacher of Richard Taylor School, who has passed away recently.

Mr. Tennyson was the Headteacher at RTS between 1977 and 1989 and did more than anyone to establish the school place in the community and its vision for the future, following the move to our current site in 1973.

Following his retirement Mr. Tennyson continued to be a huge supporter of the school and was a regular attender at community teas, always eager to find out what the children had been learning. As a long standing member of the Taylor Trust, he also played a huge role in supporting the development and growth of the school. Mr. Tennyson was a great support to all of the headteachers who followed his time in post.

As a school we have shared our condolences with Mr. Tennyson's family. We will be remembering him in our prayers and will continue to build upon the legacy which he established during his time in post.

Mrs. Simpson

Many of you will know that Mrs. Simpson, our outstanding class teacher in Wensleydale, will be taking some time away from school as she undergoes surgery in the very near future. Surgery will be followed by further treatment and a period of recovery before she returns to work.

Wensleydale Class will be taught by Mrs. J Watts, a highly experienced year 5/6 practitioner who shares a passion and expertise in literacy with Mrs. Simpson. Both the children and parents have had the opportunity to meet Mrs. Watts and we are delighted that she has been able to join us.

Mrs. Simpson is a uniquely talented and highly valued colleague and friend of all of the staff at RTS. She will be missed by everyone during her absence and she will remain in our thoughts and prayers on each step of her recovery. I am sure that you will join with me in wishing Mrs. Simpson a swift and full recovery and look forward to the day that we can welcome her back to RTS.



Mr. Symonds

We are delighted to let you know that after an extended period of absence due to illness, Mr. Symonds has begun a phased return to his role at RTS.

His phased return will continue through the first half of the autumn term; I know how much he is looking forward to being back at work and he looks forward to seeing you all in due course. He would like to thank everyone for their support during his recovery.

Parent Governor Elections

The school will be carrying out parent governor elections during the autumn term. There are two positions to be filled on the governing body. Mrs. L Barraclough has completed her term as parent governor and has been co-opted to the board as a Foundation Governor. Mrs. Lemmetyinen stepped down when the family relocated to Finland at the end of last term.

Full details of the way in which parents can be nominated and can participate in elections will be communicated in a separate letter.

The governors play a vital role in the life of the school and it is an excellent way to get involved in an interesting side of the school's life.

If you would like further details of what the post would entail, please contact the school office.



Funclub News

After a busy summer running the holiday club, the team have begun running the breakfast and after school club at RTS.

Ashley reports that the new term has begun really well and that all of the new starters have settled into Funclub.

The team will be running a holiday club at RTS during the half term period from Monday 25th October.

For more details please contact Fun care via the web address below.

richardtaylor@funclubs.co.uk



School Parking

As more people return to work, the number of cars on the roads around school have begun to increase.

We have had a number of reported incidents of dangerous parking both on Hall Lane and on the zig-zag markings on Bilton Lane, directly outside the school gates.

The safety of the children at RTS is our number one priority and incidents of dangerous and thoughtless parking put pedestrians at real risk. Please remember the additional time it takes to find a safe place to park is never wasted time.

As we head into the autumn and winter we want to remind everyone again of the need to park safely and avoid rushing when delivering and collecting children from school.

Both our community PC Lisa Wilson and PCSO Anica Smallman have agreed to support the school in ensuring that the roads around school are safe for everyone to use and will be a presence outside school during drop off and pick up in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.



Walk to School Day

The next Harrogate District Walk to School Day is Friday 8th October, and we really want our school to be part of the action!

This is an exciting campaign to be involved in, not only to promote the physical and mental wellbeing of students and families, but also to take an active part in lowering our district's carbon emissions.

The previous Walk to School Day was a great success, with 31 schools across the district taking part. Even more schools have pledged to take part this time, so don't miss out on this fantastic community event, supported by Harrogate Borough Council and the Harrogate District Climate Change Coalition.

In the Harrogate District, transport is the largest source of our carbon emissions, making up 49% of total emissions, and is 28% higher than the national average. Therefore, building better transport habits is key to our success in achieving net zero carbon emissions.

All forms of lower carbon transport count, including: walking, cycling, bus, train, car share, 'park and stride' – parking sooner than normal and walking the last part. Every mile counts!



Lollipop News

Bob, our dedicated lollipop man is back on duty outside school.

This year he will be supported by Harrogate's newly appointed relief lollipop man, Paul, who will be called in if Bob is not able to be on duty.

Paul has visited school and has shadowed Bob.

I am sure that you will all give him a warm welcome when he appears outside school.



Ribblesdale and Dentedale visit Harlow Carr

Ribblesdale and Dentedale really enjoyed their very first school trip to Harlow Carr this month. They found out all about where our food comes from. They spotted a wide range of fruits and vegetables growing in the gardens and even got to harvest and dissect some themselves.



Harvest Festival 2021.

This year's Harvest festival will follow the theme of where our food comes from. It will be shared digitally with the classes and with parents on Thursday 14th October. We will be collecting donations of tins, dried foods and toiletries which will be given to the Harrogate food bank. Please bring your donations to school on Thursday 14th October. Thank You.



Garden News 2021.

You may have spotted the exciting addition to the school grounds where our new polytunnel has been erected by Mr. Gibbons.

The polytunnel is part of an exciting new project sponsored by The Royal Society to allow the school to work with more children, exploring where our food comes from, how it can be grown at different times of the year and the skills and techniques needed to grow more of our own food.

We look forward to sharing pictures of our crops later in the year.



Admissions Applications September 2022.



The cycle of admissions begins for those children due to start school in September 2022. Full details of our admissions criteria can be found on the school website. If you know of anyone whose child is due to start school in the next cycle and would like to know more about all aspects of school life, please ask them to contact school via the office.

There is a virtual tour of the school as well as an updated prospectus for all prospective parents. We are always happy to answer any questions regarding the school and the admissions process. We are delighted to be able to welcome prospective parents back to school for a tour of the classes. Bookings are being taken now and can be made via the school office.

The deadline for this year's applications is 15th January 2022.