



RICHARD TAYLOR

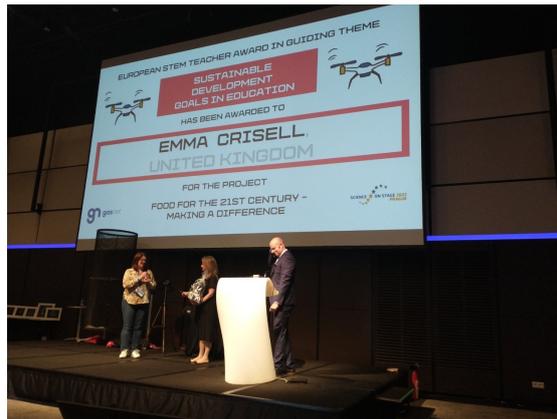
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY



Key Dates

Mon 28th March World Autism Acceptance Week begins
Wed 30th March Parents Evening
Thurs 31st March Parents Evening
Tues 5th April 2pm Community Tea
Wed 6th April Yr5 to attend midweek eucharist at St 10am
Thurs 7th April 1.15pm Whole School Service of Reflection
Fri 8th April Easter Service at St John's
School Closes for Easter 2.15pm
Mon 2nd May Bank Holiday
Mon 9th May Yr6 SATS Week
Tues 17th May Scargill Residential Visit
Mon 30th May Half Term
Fri 22nd July End of Term 2015pm

European Science Award



Congratulations to Mrs. Crisell who has won a prestigious science in education award at the science on stage conference which was recently held in Prague. Mrs. Crisell attended as part of the British delegation of both primary and secondary science teachers. She was presented with the award for the project which she had undertaken with children at RTS on 'Food for the 21st century which looked at the ways we can grow our own food in different conditions.

We are immensely proud of Mrs. Crisell's achievement which reflects her talent as a science teacher and the hard work which both she and the children put in to the project. She is looking forward to showing the children her trophy.

Fun Club

The wonderful team which run our breakfast and after school club have received their first Ofsted Inspection since starting at RTS.

Ashley and her team were inspected during the half term holidays whilst running the holiday club for children. I am delighted to say that they received a glowing report which truly reflects the high standard of care which they bring to their work for every child who they support before or after school.



The inspection report comments:

'The dedicated and passionate management team is committed to providing the best quality experiences they can for children. They evaluate the quality of the club and are continually seeking ways to improve. Strong partnerships with the host school are evident. Staff have good relationships with class teachers and receive a wealth of information about children at collection times. This ensures that there is consistency and continuity of support while children are at the club and when at school.'

This reflects the quality of provision which the school sees on a daily basis and we fully support the findings of the inspection report. Congratulations to Jenny, Ashley and the whole team at Funclub who work so hard and do such a wonderful job to support our children. If you would like to know more about Funclub please check their website at www.funclubs.co.uk/our-fun-clubs/richard-taylor

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Friends News



The ducklings sponsored by the Friends have been a huge hit with the children at RTS over the last couple of weeks. From Hatching in the incubator to learning to swim the four ducks named: Speedy, Tiny Tim, Jay and Potter have all become a real favourite with the children across school. Miss Sherwood in particular will be very sorry to see them leave us.

Thanks to the kindness of families we have been able to rehome our four feathered friends safely in locations where they will be able to grow into healthy adult ducks.

On Thursday 7th April the friends will be holding their decorate an Easter Egg competition. Children who wish to take part can bring their decorated egg into school where each classes entries will be judged with a winner from each class being selected and a prize awarded. Their will then be an egghibition in the afternoon for all of the children to enjoy.

Staffing News

Parent's of children in Bishopdale will already be aware that Mrs. Rothera has begun her maternity leave slightly earlier than originally planned. Mrs Longstaffe and Mrs. Martin have already begun teaching the children in Bishopdale and will operate as a job share team until Mrs. Rothera returns. I am sure that you will join with me in wishing Mrs. Rothera a safe and happy maternity leave.

Both Mrs. Simpson and Mrs. Atkinson continue to be long term absences from school as they recover from illness. We are in regular contact with them as they journey back to full health. They are greatly missed and we look forward to welcoming them back to RTS in the future. Please keep them both in your thoughts and prayers at the current time.

You will be aware that RTS has continued to face the reality of Covid-19 which has had a huge impact on staffing levels over recent weeks. From conversations with other headteachers I know that we are not alone in having to respond to the challenges which the virus continues to throw at us. The staff at RTS have shown a huge commitment to the education of our children in responding at short notice when there has been the need to cover absent colleagues. We hope that the Easter break and improving weather will see a reduction in cases however we recognise that this is a virus that we will have to live with long into the future.

Finally it has been great to welcome Mrs. Manwaring to the admin team, she has spent the week training with the existing office staff and is the new voice that you may have heard if you have contacted the school this week.

New Books for School

Working with the Children's Book Award the school has been able to purchase a library full of some of the best new titles in children's literature covering all ages.



The Children's Book Award is the only national book award voted for entirely by children and as part of our participation in the voting process we have been able to purchase a range of the best books from this years competition at a hugely discounted rate. We have been able to create age appropriate books for classes to be able to access and enjoy. Over 200 of the best new fiction and non-fiction books are going to be enjoyed by the children in the summer term. The staff particularly liked reading 'The Jelly who had a Wobble.' The photo shows a selection of some of the books which we have been able to purchase.

Ukraine Appeal

Thank you to everyone who supported the cake sale for the DEC Ukraine Appeal, the strength of the response showed the importance of the issue to everyone associated with the school. The final total raised was an incredible £393.55. The photograph shows some of the children from Wharfedale Class selling cakes during the week of the appeal.



Big Spring Clean

The children were set the challenge at the start of this term with helping to tidy up and clean out areas of the school which had become cluttered over the winter. They all responded with an enthusiasm for tidying up which may surprise you. As a reward they were invited to choose a plant for their classroom to be delivered at the start of the summer term. So far classes have asked for Peace Lilies, Cactus, A chili plant and even a Venus Fly Trap. Look out for the plants appearing on your child's class windowsill after the Easter break.



Autism Acceptance Week News

This week is national autism acceptance week. Autism affects many children at school across the spectrum of need. If you want to learn more about autism and hear from some famous people who live with the condition please visit the page below www.autism.org.uk



Mrs. Wood

The reason that you are able to read this newsletter in a coherent form is that it will have been proof read by Mrs. Wood, who retires from the RTS admin team after 17 years of wonderful service. She has had the misfortune to have me as her headteacher for the majority of her years at Richard Taylor but despite this she has stayed with us and been absolutely central to the success and smooth running of the school.

Mrs. Wood has taken on every challenge thrown at her with calmness and efficiency. If you have been ever been the parent running late or telephoning with a query you will know how Mrs. Wood is able to make everything alright and solve any problem.

She will be missed by everyone at school, parents, children, governors, teachers and especially a headteacher who will miss her hugely.

There is a tradition at Richard Taylor that the retirement fairy comes to visit when you announce that you are leaving and Mrs. Wood has arrived at work every morning to find a new treat waiting for her on her desk. I am sure that you will join with me in thanking Mrs. Wood for her incredible service and wish her a very long and happy retirement.

I look forward to welcoming her back to RTS at the first opportunity to one of our community teas. Thank you Mrs. Wood for everything!

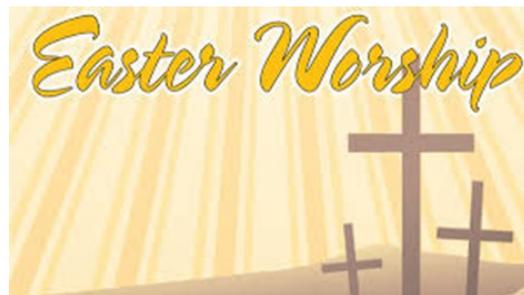


Worship News

Easter is an important time in the Christian Calendar and the last week of the spring term will see all of the children participating in special services and events.

On Wednesday the children from year five are invited to join the midweek congregation at St John's for a service where they will learn about the role that the eucharist plays in the life of Christians. On Thursday we will be having a service of reflection at school where each class will be asked to share a reflection for Easter, as they place a pebble in a small pool of clear water.

Friday is the last day of the spring term and we hope that parents will be able to join us for our Easter Service at St John's Church starting at 10am.



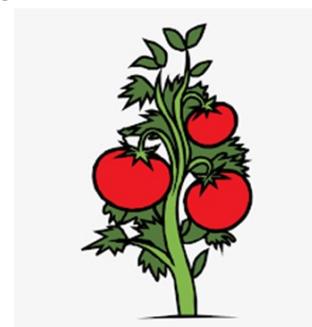
Gardening News

The sign of daffodils around school means that it is time to start gardening again. The school has even bigger plans than before to involve every class in growing food. Our polytunnel will see us focus on salads, tomatoes and peppers whilst we are going to plant peas, beans and pumpkins in our raised beds.

Every class will receive their seed potatoes with the challenge to grow as many as they can in a bucket ready for harvesting in the summer.

The school's gardening club will be working with Mr. Groves to prepare our entry in the Great Yorkshire Show Veg Box Competition. In addition every class will be given a mixture of herb seeds to try and grow.

We also have plans to undertake a garden makeover in the area behind the EYFS shed at the front of the school. If you have an unwanted plant that needs re-homing please let the school office know. Happy gardening everyone!

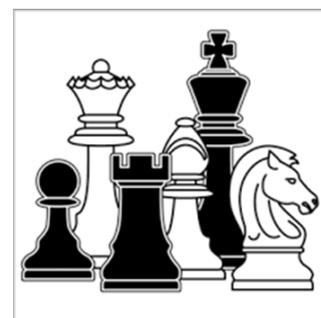


Sports News

Sporting competitions have returned to the school calendar in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Starkey will be accompanying the school's cross country team as they compete at the regional school's cross country competition at Harrogate High School on Thursday 31st March.

Following the Easter break the Tag rugby Tournament is the next event on the calendar.

Chess Club has returned to RTS this half term, good luck to all of the children who are participating in the Harrogate Chess Tournament during the Easter Break.

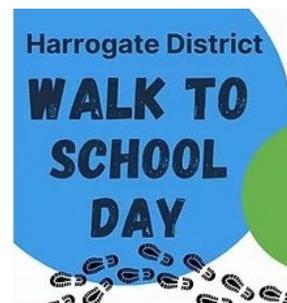


Road Safety and Walk to School News

The children in key stage one enjoyed an important talk on road safety given by PCSO Powell and PCSO Wilson earlier on the week. The children were complimented by the team for their excellent listening and interesting questions.

The latest walk to school results put RTS in the top four schools across Harrogate for walking to school with 81% of the school population making the journey on foot. The average score for primary schools across Harrogate was 74% so our school is above average.

The next walk to school day is on May 13th where we will be looking to move up the league table.



Kids Aloud & Music News

KS2 had a close encounter with a dragon when members of the Kids Aloud team from Harrogate Brigantes, came to share the story behind the next project, due to start next term and be performed in March 2023. RTS choir have been part of Kids Aloud since it began, not only performing, but helping write the songs and contribute artwork. The Last Dragon is an exciting tale and we look forward to being a part of it.

In other news it has been a great joy to hear the choir singing in the Hall after school on a Monday. It has been almost two years to the day since they were last able to come together and sing. Hearing them again is a reminder that there are good days ahead.



Uniform Plea

As we approach the end of term we have been slowly collecting an increasing number of unnamed sweatshirts and cardigans. There were enough jumpers to kit a whole class and the vast majority were unnamed.

Those jumpers that were named will be returned to their owners. The unnamed jumpers will be kept until the Easter break and then passed to the friends for recycling in the nearly new sale.

Thank you



Keeping in Touch

There are many ways to keep in touch with what is happening at school. Your child's class seesaw page is the way in which class teachers will communicate with parents. The Headteacher's blog is published every Sunday and includes information on what is happening in school that week. It will often contain a QR code linked to a video from a chosen class letting you know what they have been learning.



The website diary is regularly updated and you will always find the latest photos of events in school posted on the website gallery.

The school office will send out messages via text and e mail, if you are not receiving these messages please contact the office.

For those people who use social media you can follow the school on twitter @RTSPPrimarySch .

Finally the newsletter is a chance to celebrate achievements and share messages.



Comic Relief 2022

Thank you to everyone who supported Comic Relief Day on the 19th March. The children all enjoyed their talent show and the red nose biscuits baked by Jo and her team in the kitchen were a great success. Jo will be posting more of her wonderful meals on the school website gallery after Easter for everyone to see what the children

enjoy at lunchtimes. The day raised over £250 for comic relief. Thank you for your support.

