



RICHARD TAYLOR CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY



Welcome to 2023

Welcome back to the start of the spring term 2023.

I hope that everyone managed to have a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year break.

This newsletter will give you the dates that you need to guide you through the spring term as well as key pieces of information about what is happening in school this term.

Please don't forget that we will be continuing to send out information via our seesaw platform and social media sites on Instagram and Twitter. More information is available on where to find these platforms later in the newsletter.

Happy New Year

Andrew Symonds

Key Dates

The key dates below are correct at time of going to press; if any dates need to be changed we will communicate with parents and carers as soon as possible.

Tues 10th Jan
Thurs 19th Jan
Mon 23rd Jan
Tues 7th Feb
Fri 10th Feb
Wed 22nd Feb
Thurs 23rd Feb
Mon 27th Feb
Thurs 2nd March
Mon 6th March
Mon 13th March
Fri 17th March
Tues 28th March
Wed 29th March
Wed 29th March
Thurs 30th March
Fri 31st March

M&M Production Jack and Beanstalk am
Rock Steady Workshop pm
Age awareness resources in school this week
Safer Internet Day
School closes for half term
Road Safety Talks pm
Friends Discos After School
Fairtrade Fortnight
World Book Day
Duck Eggs Arriving
British Science Week
Comic Relief Day
2pm Community Tea
Yr5 to attend midweek eucharist
Parents Evening Early (to confirm)
Parents Evening Late (to confirm)
10am Easter Service at St John's
School Closes for Easter 2.15pm



Staffing News

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During the Spring term we look forward to welcoming Mrs. Rothera back to Bishopdale Class following her maternity leave. She will begin with a series of return to work days before taking responsibility for the class from February half term. Mrs. Owen will be absent from Bishopdale over the next few weeks as she recovers from minor planned surgery. Mrs. Martin will be taking responsibility for the class in her absence and we wish Mrs Owen a speedy recovery.

The school is looking to recruit members of our midday supervisory team initially to cover a maternity leave. If you are interested in finding more out about the position please contact the school office. Thank you.

Sickness News

The 2nd half of the autumn term saw unprecedented levels of illness caused by a combination of winter illnesses. We hope that the two week break has created the firewall needed to see everyone return in a healthy state to school for the start of term.

We have started the year with an attendance rate of 97% compared to 74% at the end of the autumn term 2022

The latest published government advice is that any child with a raised temperature is kept off school.

If your child is unwell please consider if they are well enough to be in school. We are going to be doing everything possible to prevent the spread of infections in the weeks ahead, which disrupt the learning for everyone.

Thank you for your support in keeping everyone safe.



Online Communication and Safety



The school has a growing number of followers on Instagram. We aim to post through the week sharing some of the fun things that are happening in school. We can be found at @rtsharrogate.

The monthly online safety newsletter is a fantastic resource for parents. In this month's edition the focus is on Minecraft and Whatsapp. Please take the time to read the newsletter when you receive it,

Online Safety Newsletter

New Starters September 2023 Applications Deadline.

A reminder to everyone that the deadline for admissions for the September 2023 intake is fast approaching.

If you or anyone you know still needs to select RTS as their child's school for next year please remember to register your preference on the NYCC admissions website.

A link to the LA site can be found on the school's website where you will also find the school's own supplementary information form.

The deadline for submission is Saturday 15th January. Don't delay complete the form today.



Friends News



Thank you to all of the friends for their hard work over the festive period. The Fizz Evening at St John's was a huge success, special thanks to Sarah Warne for organising this fantastic event.

It was wonderful to see so many parents and friends at the school's Christmas Fayre. Thanks to Becky Onslow who worked tirelessly to coordinate the event which was enjoyed by so many people.

The friends have kindly agreed to sponsor the pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk' which all of the children will be enjoying on Tuesday 10th January. Look out for more information on from the friends in their next newsletter.

Worship News

The focus for our worship times this term is courage. We will be learning from the lives of people who showed courage and thinking about what it means to have courage in our own lives. We began the year by thinking about the goals that we want to achieve in 2023 and how we can follow the stars of courage, wisdom and trust to achieve our targets.

The key dates on page one provide the times when you can join us for worship at St John's Church this term.



Prayer from Emma James. Youth Worker

We are very lucky to have the support of Emma James, the youth worker at St John's and St Luke's. At this time last year I asked her to share a prayer with us and she has very kindly agreed to send us a new prayer at the start of 2023 Please take the time to read the prayer below and reflect on its message.

I am the New Year

I am the New Year.

I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living

I am your opportunity to practise what you have learned about life during the past twelve months.

All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me,

Waiting for you to search for again, but with more determination.

All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed of,

All that you hoped for,

All these things slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your trust in Him who said,
'Behold, I make all things new.'

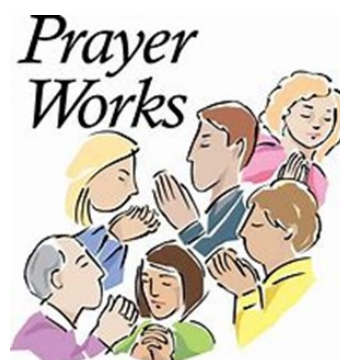
(Author unknown, adapted by E James)

As the dawn breaks on a new year,

Let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends.

Let us ask for blessings on our school community and all who are part of it

Let us live each day in the most loving way we can.



Wellbeing and Mental Health News

Moving into a new year is a time when a lot of us reflect on our health and wellbeing. Mrs Styles has asked me to draw your attention to a thought-provoking flyer from the Compass Phoenix service which seeks to promote positive mental health in young people. This has been shared with all parents in a separate email.

If you have any concerns about your child's health or wellbeing, please do get in touch. Mrs Styles, our SENCo and Wellbeing Lead, is available to help families find the support they need.

'Five ways to Wellbeing'



Woodfield and Bilton Library



Here is a message from Bilton and Woodfield library: we look forward to welcoming all members of the Richard Taylor family back into our wonderful library.

The children's section is crammed with books to meet every type of readers interest. We have many new titles and authors to introduce to you, both fiction and non fiction, so come along and explore.

Our teenage and adult section have also benefited from huge investment in new materials and titles.

We are pretty well back to our normal opening hours but please check the website for updates and events.

Thank you and have a happy and healthy 2023.

From all at Bilton and Woodfield Library.

Questionnaires

This term all of the schools within the Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust will be undertaking questionnaires to parents, pupils and staff. Please look out for the email containing the link to your questionnaire. The more parents who complete and submit a questionnaire the more useful the process is for us in responding to the feedback received.

Please remember if you have a specific issue that you wish us to address, please don't leave it to the questionnaire. Get in touch with the school, we are always happy to respond to any query.

Photos from the Festive Season at RTS

You can find lots more photos of the school via the gallery on the school website

