

RICHARD TAYLOR

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christmas Joy



This has been one of the busiest festive seasons that we can remember at RTS. Thank you to everyone who has supported the school by joining us for nativities, school fairs, carol services and choir concerts. Page five of the newsletter contains a gallery of images celebrating the activities that the children have been involved in this December.

As well as all of the fun and excitement the children have also shown the ability to think of others. They have reflected all of the school's values of Respect, Trust and Service in many ways. Community Teas, visits to care homes, prayer stations, the Pasada journey and our Special Hopes worship have all allowed the children to consider the needs of others and the special message at the heart of Christmas.



Key Dates

Friday 22nd Dec 2.15
school closes

Tuesday 9th Jan School
Reopens.

Wed 10th Jan Bikeability
Group 1 catch up session

Fri 12th Jan 1pm Rock
Steady Concert for Par-
ents.

Wed 17th Jan 1pm under
11s Football competition
1pm

Thurs 8th Feb Spring
Discos

Mon 12th Feb Half Term

Wed 21st Feb Young
Voices

Tues 27th Feb Yr1/2
Hockey Club Starts

Mon 11th March Science
Week at RTS

Mon 25th March Easter
Holidays

Staffing News.

We have ended the autumn term by saying goodbye to an RTS legend.

Mrs Simpson will be leaving the school after 26 years of wonderful service. She has been an outstanding member of our staffing team and will be missed by children and staff alike. She remains a true friend of the school and will always be welcomed back to visit at any time.

We are delighted to be able to welcome Mr Cawte, who is joining us in Wensleydale. He has already made several visits to RTS and will hit the ground running in January.



Mrs Mace continues her recovery and will be returning to Wharfedale Class in the 2nd half of the spring term. Mrs Holmes will continue to teach Wharfedale Class and will support Mrs Mace when she begins her phased return to work.

We also wish Mrs Beasley, a member of our fantastic kitchen team, a speedy recovery. She will be absent for the start of the new term as she recovers from surgery and we look forward to welcoming her back very soon.



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Friends News



Thank you to everyone who has supported the work of the friends this year. The Christmas Fair was a huge success and the school raised **** which will go straight to help fund phase one of the playground improvement programme.

The first meeting of the Friends will be in Early January 2024. Please come along as we begin to plan for the year ahead.

The Friends Spring Discos will take place on Thursday 8th February with further details of timings to be published nearer the time.

Special mention to Mrs Onslow who has worked tirelessly in organising the work of the friends this term.

Buildings News

The builders have continued to work through wind, rain and snow as the school's new PE store has taken shape this term. The weather has caused a slight display in the completion of the project but we are still expecting to take possession of our new storeroom early in January 2024.

This will free up space in the Hall for PE lessons and will provide easy access for all of the equipment needed to deliver our curriculum.

Look out for photo's in the new year showing the completed

50th Anniversary Celebrations 2023-2024



The celebrations are well underway for our 50th Anniversary, as well as being School of the week on Your Harrogate Radio we have held a fantastic anniversary carol service at St John's which was incredibly well attended. 2024 will see the school hold a special Music Concert in the spring term as well as an exhibition of photographs through the decades.

If you have any photos that we could use in our exhibition please let us know in January 2024.

We can also announce the winner of our special anniversary flag competition.

James Smith in Coverdale has come up with the winning design which will be flown on the flag-pole outside school.



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New Website

The new website continues to take shape and will hopefully go live very early in 2024.

I would like to apologise for the delay in getting the updated information onto the new platform. It will be a priority for completion as soon as the new term begins. Don't forget you can follow us on Instagram @rtsharrogate

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Sports News

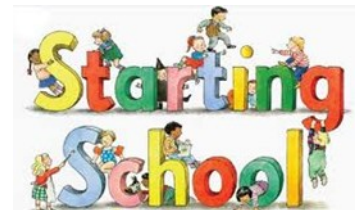
We have had a very busy and successful time on the sporting front. As well as a well attended Club run by Harrogate Town FC we have also taken mixed football teams to tournaments at Harrogate High School. In every case the teams have performed brilliantly and topped their mini leagues as well as showing real teamwork, sportsmanship and determination. Thank you to all of the families who supported the teams and helped with transport .

After Christmas we will be participating in the Yr5/6 Football cup organised by Harrogate Town. On Wednesdays the focus will be on dodgeball tournaments, starting with year 3/4 children on 17th January 2024 and running for the different age groups during the spring term. We are also excited by our new partnership with Harrogate Hockey Club who will be running clubs, starting with children from year 1/2 on Tuesday 27th February.

Admissions Applications September 2024

The cycle of admissions begins for those children due to start school in September 2024. 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 to school for a tour of the classes. Booking are being taken now and can be made via the school office. The deadline for this year's applications is 15th January 2024.



School Priorities

At the start of each year the school identifies its priorities for progress which become the focus for staff training, curriculum delivery and monitoring.

This year our key focus have been

To raise standards in writing and phonics across school.

The staff across school have responded magnificently to this challenge and they and the children can be very proud of the positive results that our autumn term data is showing us with strong progress across school.

Professional Development of Staff

All staff now have access to the National College for online learning and have been undertaking units linked to the school's priorities for development.

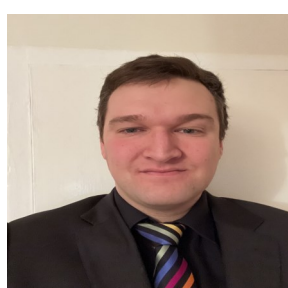
School Vision and Values

At the end of last year we introduced our new vision statement to the children, this term we have been embedding our vision across school. The governors have created a new set of strategic goals based on our vision. Our next goal is to complete the new website as a focal point for sharing our vision.

Curriculum

We have completed a review of both our RE and PSHE curriculum. The new units have been introduced to the children who are particularly enjoying the PSHE Jigsaw scheme. All subject coordinators work actively with partners across the Trust to develop standards in all areas of the curriculum

Governor News



Message from Our Chair of Governors Dr Jan Johnson.

The Autumn term as always has been an active and engaging term, for the whole school and especially for the Governors. There have been some changes to the way in which we conduct our meetings and what we will focus and report on within school, following feedback from the Diocesan Education Team Conference and from the Trust.

With meetings, all paperwork is now sent out well before the date of the meeting and any Governors submit their questions before the meeting. This means less time is taken on reviewing paperwork in the meeting and so allows the Governors to focus on either training, specific areas such as Safeguarding or extended discussions about the School Improvement plans or any upcoming visits/inspections.

Several Governors have been in looking at how the Phonics program works, focussing on literacy and meeting with teachers to get a clear picture of steps to improve reading and writing for all pupils in school. SEN and Safeguarding are also areas of interest for the school and the Trust, so these areas have been reviewed several times this term. Also, the Chair visited the school weekly for meetings either with Mr Symonds or Mrs Crisell, as well as having meetings several times with key members of the Trust.

Each governor has a link class and our governors have been to visit their classes, this helps both the governors to learn about their classes and importantly for the children to discover what the role of a governor is.

Our new vice chair Caroline Fox-Robinson has spent time with Wensleydale Class, observing a science lesson. In her report to the governing body she reported that, *'The class teacher clearly has high expectations of and for the children and was very successful in creating a safe and good learning environment. Offering differing levels of related tasks, the children were able to digest fairly complex subject matter into manageable detail.'*

It was clear each child was given an opportunity to speak and reflect on what they were working on. Encouraging those less vocal was evident and reflects the values well.'

We are very lucky as a school to have a dedicated and hard working governing body.

We wish you and all your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy 2024.

Taylor Times.

Thank you to Mrs Styles and her wonderful Taylor Times editorial team For the great job they did in producing the first copy of our re-established school newspaper. Sales of edition one raised over £30 for which will go towards library renovation projects.

Please let the editors know what you want to see in their next edition and look out for edition two which is due to be published in the spring term 2024.



Photo Gallery

Images from a very busy half term at RTS.



