

# Richard Hill Primary

## School Newsletter



"You will know them by their fruits."

## October 2025

### Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we look back on October, I am delighted to share some of the many achievements and positive moments from our school community. We are proud to welcome visitors from the fire services and NHS, who shared valuable safety and health messages with our pupils, enriching their learning beyond the classroom. Our Harvest Church service was a heartfelt event, bringing us together to celebrate gratitude and community spirit.

Congratulations to all the children who received their Bronze and Silver reading awards — a fantastic milestone in their literacy journey. This year, our class assemblies will focus on the importance of reading, with each one linked to a different book. This idea was inspired by the valuable feedback from parents during our Reading Workshop. We are passionate about nurturing a love of reading and helping children see how a wonderful book can take them on many exciting learning adventures. Please keep an eye out for the upcoming assembly dates!

I am also incredibly proud of our students' outstanding attitudes towards their behaviour and learning, which continue to create a positive and supportive school environment. Additionally, our staff have been working closely with children to build their confidence, especially during assessment periods, ensuring they feel prepared and motivated to succeed.

Thank you for your ongoing support in making our school a wonderful place to learn and grow.

Warm regards,

Mrs E McVeigh  
Acting Headteacher

### Dates for your diary

#### November

#### **Wednesday 5th November**

Dance Workshops

Family Fireworks Night - 4:30pm

*Tickets still available—Cash only on the door and at the event*

#### **Monday 10th November**

Anti-Bullying Week—Odd Socks Day

Maths Workshop - 2:30pm

#### **Wednesday 12th November**

EYFS Stay and Play session - 9:15am

#### **Friday 14th November**

Children in Need

Always Tea Pizza party

#### **Monday 24th November**

CUSP Breakfast - 8:15am - 9am

#### **Tuesday 25th November**

Early Years Class Assembly—2.50pm

#### **Wednesday 26th November**

EYFS Stay and Play session - 9:15am

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helping students  
CREATE A LOVE OF  
reading

### Why read with my child?

Children expand their language and vocabulary when they listen to or join in a story. Book talk brings particular advantages.

Parents who engage their children in books prepare them for being enthusiastic readers: you can transform your child's attitude to reading. This is because children learn to focus and share the enjoyment of the story; they learn how stories start and finish, how a plot unravels and is resolved. They learn that books can transport them anywhere!

Book related talk introduces children to language that they might not hear in ordinary conversation. This helps them to understand what they read later; both in their leisure and across the curriculum.

Researchers in the United States, who looked at the impact of parents reading with their children, released the following information about their findings:

**The number of words a child would have heard by the time they were 5 years old:**

**Never read to – 4,663 words**

**Read to 1-2 times a week - 63,570 words**

**Read to 3-5 times a week – 169,520 words**

**Read to daily – 296,660 words**

**Five books a day – 1,483,300**

As you can see, the impact on reading and sharing books with your child is significant. Not only will this progress their reading but it will support and improve their writing too. The majority of the time, our greater depth writers are avid, enthusiastic readers!

A huge well done to all the children who received their Bronze Reading Award last half term! Well done to the 2 children who also received their Silver Reading Award too! Keep it up everyone!



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### Wren Class

#### Diwali in EYFS – A Celebration of Light and Learning

The children have been immersed in the celebration of Diwali, the Festival of Lights. Through stories, art and play, we explored the traditions and meaning behind this special festival. The children enjoyed:

- Listening to the story of The Best Diwali Ever and Rama and Sita, learning about good triumphing over evil.
- Creating beautiful rangoli patterns in playdough and coloured rice.
- Making and decorating diyas (using paper plates, glitter and paint) to symbolise light and hope.
- Talking about how people celebrate Diwali at home with family, food, fireworks, and lights.

This topic helped the children to develop their understanding of different cultures and beliefs, and the celebration of diversity.



### Osprey Class

What a fabulous first term we have had! The children have been busy settling into routines and building strong foundations across the curriculum. In English, we have been developing our phonics skills, reading texts and answering questions. We have also been writing sentences with punctuation and extending sentence with descriptive language using our senses to help us.

In Maths, we have explored number bonds, place value, and basic addition and subtraction using practical resources when needed. Our Science lessons have focused on seasonal changes and plants and this had meant lots of outdoor learning and exploring which has been great fun.

The children have also enjoyed expressing themselves through music and PE, where they have built coordination and teamwork skills. It's been a joyful and productive start to the year, with lots of curiosity, creativity, and growth.



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### Ravens Class

In Year 3 and 4 we set up a camera trap after lots of evidence of furry intruders had been found on the field. The trap captured several great images with this one being the best! Other creatures spotted included - birds, squirrels and cats!



### Red Kite Class

What a fantastic and busy term it has been! Red Kite Class have approached their learning with enthusiasm, kindness, and curiosity and it has been wonderful to see new friendships forming and everyone working so well together.

In Maths, we have been working on multiplication and division.

Although these topics have been challenging, the children have shown great perseverance and their confidence has grown.

In Writing, the children have been exploring poetry inspired by Ancient Greece. They have particularly enjoyed performing their poems with their classmates, bringing their words to life through expression and movement. This work has linked in beautifully with our history topic on Ancient Greece, where the children have loved learning about the fascinating world of Greek gods and myths.

To round off the term, we enjoyed some cooking sessions, where the children worked together to make three delicious recipes. Every dish was a great success, and it was lovely to see the pride on their faces as they shared their creations.



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### Fire Safety Visitors

It was great to have representatives from the fire service and the NHS educating the children all about fire safety! The children had some great knowledge. Please ask them about this experience because they have some questions for you at home! I hope you all know how long you're allowed to keep a hot water bottle for! Also I'd revise what to do if your clothing is on fire.



**Keep hot drinks away from little hands**



**Hot drinks post**  
Hot drinks can still burn a child's skin up to 15 minutes after being made. Every day, 30 babies and toddlers go to hospital with burns from hot drinks. Keep hot drinks out of reach. #BeBurnsAware <https://shorturl.at/nSvbo>

**Hidden danger in your home comfort**



**Hot water bottles post**  
Before you reach for your hot water bottle:  
🔍 Check for damage  
📅 Don't keep it longer than 2 years  
🌸 Look for the flower symbol to know when it was made  
🚫 Never use boiling water  
More tips: <https://shorturl.at/ZHs00>

**Turn pan handles away from the edge**



**Pan and kettle spills post**  
The majority of burn injuries to children happen in the kitchen. Keep pans at the back of the hob and turn handles away from reach. #BeBurnsAware <https://shorturl.at/rG5UZ>

**Hair Straighteners stay hot long after use**



**Hair straighteners post**  
Hair straighteners can heat to over 200°C - and stay hot for up to 40 minutes. Always keep them out of children's reach. #BeBurnsAware <https://shorturl.at/AAJv>

[www.cbtrust.org.uk](http://www.cbtrust.org.uk)

Below are social posts and images you can use to raise awareness about the main cause of burns and scalds. Click on the image to download.

**First Aid for Burns**

- Cool
- Call
- Cover



CBT

#### **First Aid post**

Would you know what to do if your child was burned?

- ➔ COOL under running cool water for 20 minutes
- ➔ CALL for help if it's bigger than a 50p (999, 111 or GP)
- ➔ COVER with cling film

#BeBurnsAware #CoolCallCover  
<https://shorturl.at/OrE4t>

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## **Attendance**

At Richard Hill, we believe that positive behaviour and regular school attendance are key to helping pupils make the most of their school experience. By being in lessons and fully engaged, children can achieve more, support their wellbeing, and build brighter futures. When pupils miss out on learning, they risk falling behind and facing challenges that may affect both their education and wider life. Evidence also shows that school-age education has lasting benefits for children's health and wellbeing, making it an important part of helping them thrive.

As a Trust, we are aiming for **96% or above** to ensure all of our children are given the full opportunity to flourish.

Whole School attendance so far this year:

**96.2%**



**If you need any support with attendance,  
please contact the school.**

**We are here to help!**

## Stay and Play Sessions

We were thrilled to welcome so many families to our recent Stay and Play session! It was a joyful morning filled with inquisitive, creativity, and meaningful connections - and we absolutely loved having you with us.

### What We Got Up To

Children and grown-ups explored a wide range of activities together, including:

- Painting and mark-making in our creative corner
- Building towers and patterns in our Maths area
- Sharing stories in our cozy reading nook
- Investigating natural materials in our sensory trays

It was heart-warming to see children proudly guiding their families around the classroom, engaging in play with confidence, curiosity, and joy.

### Why It Matters

These sessions help children feel secure and excited about their learning environment. They also give parents a valuable opportunity to see how we nurture early development through play - and just how much fun we have doing it! It was also a great chance for parents to connect with the class teacher, ask questions, and gain insight into their child's learning journey when they start school.



## Stay and Play Sessions



Richard Hill CE Primary School  
Anstey Lane, Thurgaston, LE7 7JA

Join us for one of our Stay and Play Sessions where you and your preschool child can have fun exploring our early years classroom. Free to attend and a wonderful way to discover our school.

To book:  
0116 234 0212  
office@ric.learnat.uk  
www.richardhillschool.co.uk

~~15th October - 9.15-10.15 am~~  
~~29th October - 1.15-2.15 pm~~  
12th November - 9.15-10.15 am  
26th November - 1.15-2.15 pm  
10th December - 9.15-10.15 am



Children are growing up in a time where screens are everywhere and the internet plays a big part in their lives, even from a very young age.

This can be beneficial, they can learn new things, connect with friends and family, and have fun. But it's important to have conversations on how to explore the online world safely.

### **That's where Techosaurus, our new friendly dinosaur comes in!**

We understand that talking about online safety can seem daunting, but it doesn't have to be. We have created Techosaurus specifically to make these conversations as easy as possible for you and your child.

Techosaurus is aimed at little ones who are starting to use technology and the internet, and keeps the conversation around online safety positive. Techosaurus will help your child to form healthy online habits, routines and behaviours from a young age, and build basic knowledge and skills related to online safety.

For more information visit:

[Help keep children safe online with Techosaurus! | NSPCC](#)

## **Why talk about online safety with your child?**

Talking regularly with your child can help keep them safe online. Having this conversation helps to prepare your child from an early age, so they can safely explore the internet and know who to speak to if things go wrong.

It's also important to listen to your child and give them a chance to talk about what they're experiencing online, what apps and sites they use and who they're talking to.

You could try making it part of a daily conversation, like you would about school. This can help your child feel relaxed, and means that if they do have any worries about online safety, they're more likely to talk to you about it.



## Admissions Update: Foundation and Secondary School Places

Mid-term admissions are processed via LearnAt, but **first-time admissions** for both Foundation Stage and Secondary School must be completed through the Leicestershire County Council website:

### Foundation Stage Admissions (August 2026 Starters)

If your child is starting Foundation in August 2026, applications must be submitted by:  
15th January 2026

To book a place on our stay and play dates, or to book a school tour, please contact us:  
Telephone: 0116 234 0212  
Email: [office@ric.learnat.uk](mailto:office@ric.learnat.uk)

### Spread the Word!

Please share these important dates with family and friends.

We still have a few places available in this year's Foundation Stage, so if you know anyone who might be interested in joining our school community, please encourage them to call the office to find out more.

### Did you know?

Over half of our pupils come from outside the catchment area—so don't hesitate to recommend us to families near and far!

## Getting Ready for School

It is nearly time to start school! Here are some things you can practise at home to help you get ready for school.



### Self-Care and Independence

- I can wash and dry my hands.
- I can wipe my nose.
- I can put on/fasten my coat and shoes.
- I can use the toilet.
- I am learning to dress/undress – this will help me change for PE.
- I am happy to be away from my parents or carers. I know they will be back soon.

### Playing with Others



- I join in games and activities with other people.
- I can share and take turns.

### Speaking and Listening

- I can talk about my ideas, needs and feelings.
- I can ask a grown-up for help.
- I can follow simple instructions.

### Eating and Drinking



- I can use a spoon, knife and fork.
- I can open my lunch box as well as wrappers and packaging.
- I can drink from a water bottle, carton or open cup.

### 12345 Numbers



- I can count a small number of items.
- I like singing number rhymes or songs.
- I am learning to say numbers to ten.
- I can recognise some numbers.

### Reading and Writing



- I can recognise/read my name.
- I can hold a pencil to draw.
- I am learning to write my name.
- I enjoy listening to stories and rhymes.



Applications Open: **1st September**

Secondary		Primary	
Deadline: 31st October	Offer Day: 1st March	Deadline: 15th January	Offer Day: 16th April

Leicestershire County Council

\*or next working day if this falls on a weekend /bank holiday.

## School Admissions Checklist

For primary & secondary school places

### Step 1: How to get started - preparing to apply

- Create a [parent portal account](#) or check you can still log in.
- Create or change to a password you can remember.
- Keep a note of the email address you applied with—you must use the same email address to log in later.

### Step 2: List your school preferences

- Include your catchment school in your preferences, or the nearest local school if there is no defined catchment area. This will help increase your chance of securing a place at your nearby school.
- Maximise your opportunities by listing up to 5 different school preferences.
- Double check your order of preferences—we always aim to try to offer the highest preference where possible.

### Step 3: Check your catchment areas

- Visit your local school website.
- Contact the school directly to check your catchment area.


### Step 4: Review your order of preferences

- Check your details are correct before you submit your application.

### TOP TIPS

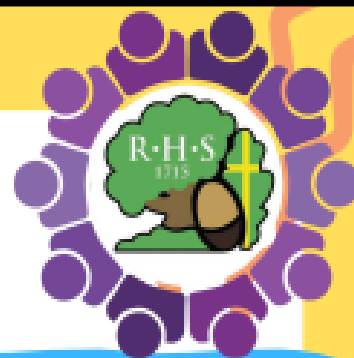
1. Check out the [Your Guide to Education](#).
2. Attend open days, visit schools before finalising your choices.
3. Consider how you'd get your child to and from school. More on our [school transport policy and eligibility](#).
4. Remember late applications will be processed after those that were sent on time.
5. Help your child get [school ready](#) if applying for the first time.
6. Download our ["Moving Up" booklet](#) to help anyone transitioning on to secondary school.
7. Choosing one school will not guarantee a place.
8. If none of your preferences are offered, you may be allocated a school further away.
9. Don't assume - boundaries can be different than you expect and in some instances you may live in a catchment with multiple schools.
10. If you make changes or even re-open your application to check your submitted application, you must then click the RESUBMIT button - if you don't your application status is unsubmitted.

For hints and tips about the process, information on Leicestershire schools and to apply, visit [leicestershire.gov.uk/admissions](https://leicestershire.gov.uk/admissions)



# SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

For more details, please email the school office!



## DANCE WORKSHOP

5<sup>th</sup> November in school 1-3pm  
EYFS - Year 6 with Louise



## GYMNASTICS CLUB

Years 1-3 with Emily  
Tuesdays 3.20-4.20pm starting  
4<sup>th</sup> November  
Booking require through school



## FOOTBALL

KS2  
Details TBC  
Booking required  
through ME sports



## BALANCE BIKES

EYFS with Sophie  
Thursday afternoons in school

## YOUNG LEADERS

Year 6 pupils at lunchtime  
Supporting play for younger  
children



## CHOIR CLUB

Wednesday lunchtimes with  
Emma  
Years 1-6



## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

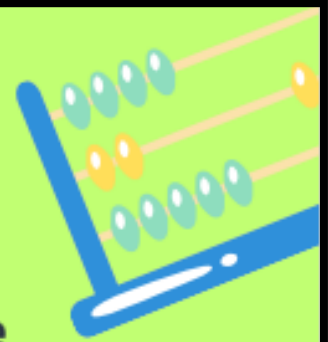
Learn to play an instrument with Claire  
During the school day  
Booking required through the Music teacher



AUTUMN TERM 2025



Free tea and  
biscuits!



All parents/carers welcome  
from EYFS - Year 6!

# MATHS PARENT



# WORKSHOP



Monday 10th November  
2.30-3pm  
School Hall



Hear information about our  
maths scheme "White Rose"  
and how we teach mixed age  
groups!

Understand how  
automaticity is important  
when becoming life long  
maths learners!

Find out about our "Mastery  
Approach" and the importance of  
both efficient and accurate  
methods!





**Friday 14<sup>th</sup>**

**November**

Wear Pyjamas to  
school to raise  
money for Children  
in Need!

**£1 donation**

**BBC**

**Children  
in Need**



Tickets held at  
2024 prices

**Richard Hill CE Primary School**

Anstey Lane, Thurstaston, LE7 7JA



# Family Fireworks Night

Organised - Family Friendly - Fireworks Display

**Wednesday 5th November**

**Gates 4.30pm (display 6pm prompt)**

**Adults £6**

**Children £4**

**Under 3s Free**

No Sparklers Allowed

Refreshments and souvenirs available to  
buy on the night

Children's Disco

Purchase advanced tickets  
via the QR code



Limited tickets will be available to buy  
on the gate - cash only.

# Richard Hill Primary

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"You will know them by their fruits."

### Our School

WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW?

School Rules

**We are Ready**  
**We are Respectful**  
**We are Safe**



*Vision and Values*  
 "You will know them by their fruits."

Joy, Patience, Goodness, Faithfulness, Self Control  
 Kindness, Love, Peace, Gentleness

### Six Strands

- Boundaries
- Resilience
- Focus
- Respect
- Self Regulation
- Independence

**No Outsiders means....**  
 Everyone different,  
 Everyone welcome,  
 No one is an outsider

Welcoming We say no to...  
**Bullying**  
**Racism**  
**Discrimination**



Several Times on Purpose  
 Start Telling Other People



Stay safe online  
 Sun Safety  
 Water Safety  
 Road Safety  
 Keeping your Privates Private

**We are not BYSTANDERS**



We know and are respectful of what makes each of us unique.

Protected Characteristics

- Age
- Gender
- Religion
- Family Culture
- Faith
- Ability

### WHAT YOU COULD DO WHEN YOU FEEL WORRIED

- Talk to someone - a friend or an adult
  - Put your worry in the worry monster
  - Go outside - breathe deeply
  - Do a calming activity
  - Draw a picture of your feelings
  - Write your feelings down
- GROWN UPS IN SCHOOL ARE ALWAYS HERE TO HELP- COME AND SEE US**

### TALKING WITH ADULTS

- EXPECTATIONS**
- S**HOW THEM YOUR BEST  
 Show the adult that you know speaking to them is important by sitting smartly and showing best behaviour.
  - M**AKE SURE TO LISTEN  
 The adults will ask you questions and you need to listen carefully to make sure you are answering what they have asked.
  - A**LWAYS USE YOUR BOOK  
 The adult wants to know about your learning make sure you show them your books!
  - R**EMEMBER TO ASK  
 If you are not sure of what a question means speak up.
  - T**HINK!  
 The adults want to hear your thoughts not just your friends. Use your brain and share YOUR ideas not someone else's!



### British Values

- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- Tolerance
- Respect
- BEYOND Individual Liberty



Thank you for visiting us!



School Website



Getting Ready for School

