

Richard Hill Primary

School Newsletter



"You will know them by their fruits."

November 2025

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy and exciting few weeks in school. The children took part in Anti-Bullying Week and Road Safety Week, showing great maturity, kindness, and awareness. Their engagement in these important themes has been fantastic to see.

Our school fireworks display was a wonderful community event - thank you to everyone who joined us. We also enjoyed welcoming parents to our CUSP breakfast celebration, which was very well attended, and to our Maths Workshop, where we shared useful information about supporting learning at home. Please continue to check WeDuc for key updates and resources.

As we move towards the festive season, the children (and staff!) are excited for the upcoming Christmas discos, our Christmas Church Service, the Christmas Cake raffles, the Early Years nativity, and the KS1 and Years 3 & 4 production of Humph the Camel. We look forward to celebrating these special events with you.

Every day, we are proud of our pupils' fantastic learning and positive behaviours. They continue to show curiosity, enthusiasm, and kindness in all they do.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to sharing a joyful and memorable festive season with you all.

Warm wishes,

Mrs McVeigh
Acting Headteacher

Dates for your diary

December

Wednesday 10th December

School Choir Club Performance at All Saints Church - 2-3pm

EYFS and KS1 Christmas Disco - 3:30-4:30pm

KS2 Christmas Disco - 4:30 - 5:30pm

Thursday 11th December

Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 12th December

Santa Dash

Monday 15th December

Class Christmas Parties

Tuesday 16th December

KS1 and Year 3/4 performance - 9:15am

EYFS Nativity performance - 2:15pm

Wednesday 17th December

EYFS Nativity performance - 9:30am

KS1 and Year 3/4 performance - 2pm

Thursday 18th December

Christmas Church Service at All Saints Church - 9:30-10:30am

A big thank you to all our families
who donated to Child in Need!



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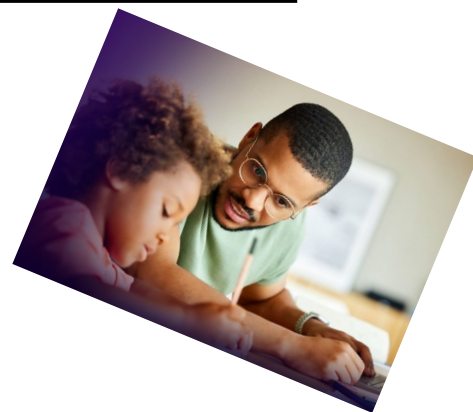
Parenting Expert Advice!

As parents/carers, we all have questions about our children. Sometimes this is wondering about their friendship groups, worrying about homework, wondering if they are eating enough fruit and vegetables or maybe being worried about what they are playing online.

BBC Bitesize Parenting is a place for mums, dads, carers, and the whole parenting community to find stories, expert advice and fun activities that will help you support your child in a changing world.

Parents, BBC Bitesize have got you!

[Bitesize Parenting - advice for parents from BBC Bitesize](#)



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CUSP Breakfast

We would like to say a big thank you to all the parents who joined us for our CUSP breakfast one Monday 24th November and took the time to look at their children's work. It was wonderful to see families sharing in the achievements of the children and celebrating the effort they have put into their learning. Your support and encouragement make a real difference, and the children were so proud to show you what they have been working on.

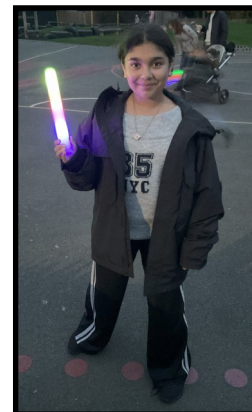


Fireworks Night

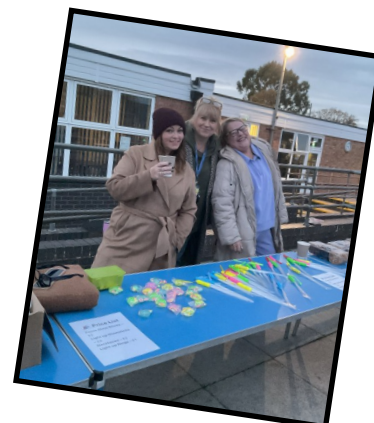


Thank you to everyone who joined us for the fireworks event! It was a joy to see so many smiles, and we're delighted that everyone — including our staff — had such a wonderful time.

We're proud to share that all the money raised will go directly towards supporting the children and funding future events. Your generosity helps us create lasting memories and brighter opportunities.



We couldn't have done it without you - here's to many more celebrations ahead.



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Wren Class

November has been an exciting and busy month for Wrens!

We began by exploring some key calendar events—Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day. The children showed incredible creativity, making vibrant firework pictures using collage materials and crafting beautiful poppies to mark the occasion. Through these activities, they learned about the significance of these historical events and why we observe Remembrance Day.



Next, we revisited our topic on Families, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. They took part in practical household tasks such as washing dishes and sweeping crumbs—skills we hope will be transferable at home!

To finish the month, we went into full animal mode with our work on Dear Zoo. The children performed their very own version of the story for you all, complete with handmade props and even creating habitats for their chosen animals. It was a fantastic way to end a month full of learning and creativity!

Osprey Class

November has been a very busy month exploring lots of exciting topics in class. In Literacy we have been writing clear instructions using bossy verbs to help others follow step-by-step guides, such as making a sandwich or brushing their teeth. We have also learned about what shops were like in the past, discovering how people used to visit small local stores like the baker or butcher instead of big supermarkets, and how shopping was more personal because shopkeepers often knew their customers. In Science we have been learning all about animals, including humans, and how scientists group them into different categories depending on their features. For example, mammals like humans, cats, and dogs have hair or fur and feed their young with milk, while birds have feathers and lay eggs. We also looked at reptiles, amphibians, and fish, noticing the special characteristics that make each group unique. Through this work, the children began to understand that humans are part of the animal kingdom too, sharing many similarities with other creatures while also having special abilities like language and writing.



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Ravens Class

Ravens class had a lot of fun for odd sock day in support of Anti-bullying week!

In class the children have been writing very convincing letters of complaint and I think we certainly have some future politicians in our class! They were outraged that the government might be changing the 6 week holiday to 3 weeks (I was too)!

The Year 4s continue to impress with their multiplication skills and the Year 3s are really growing in confidence in KS2!



Red Kite Class

November has been a wonderfully busy month in Year 5/6, and the children have worked incredibly hard throughout. We've had lots of special opportunities, starting with the Year 5/6 girls attending This Girl Can Inspire Sports event - a fantastic experience that included tag rugby sessions led by Tigers and England rugby coaches, a Leicester City sports quiz, and even the chance to try a brand-new sport, Pickleball. The girls also enjoyed asking questions to junior 800m champion Shaikira King, which was a real highlight.



Later in the month, the whole class took part in an indoor athletics event, where they threw themselves enthusiastically into a range of relay races and indoor challenges, proudly finishing second place in the afternoon session, and fourth place overall! To round off the month, Bikeability has now begun for the year 6 students, and the children are excited to build their cycling confidence and learn how to stay safe on the roads. It's been a brilliant month of effort, achievement, and new experiences!

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Breakfast Club

In Breakfast Club we have been doing lots of different activities which include mindful colouring and practicing our skipping in the hall.

Amazing Afterschool Club

Throughout November The Amazing After School Club have been very busy with lots of different arts and crafts. We have been enjoying designing firework pictures for bonfire night, which went with a bang!

For Remembrance Day we made wreaths and decorated poppy pictures to remember all those who sacrificed their lives defending our freedom.

We also designed self portraits of all the children from Richard Hill who attend the afterschool club. These all look amazing and are all displayed in the activity area if you would like to have a look when you come to collect your children.



If you would like to book a place please contact the office.

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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:

96.8%



**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



Admissions Update: Foundation Places

Mid-term admissions are processed via LearnAt, but **first-time admissions** Foundation Stage 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

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



Help keep children safe with online Techosaurus

NSPCC

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.

NSPCC

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.



But no matter how hard we try, there may be things that children won't open up to, so it's important that we give them other options. That could be:

- another adult family member, e.g. aunt, older cousin etc.
- a teacher or member of the pastoral team in school
- Childline on 0800 1111 or visiting the [Childline website](#).



December Events at Richard Hill



Wednesday 10th December

School Choir Club Performance at All Saints Church
2-3pm (letters to follow)

EYFS and KS1 Christmas Disco 3.30-4.30pm

KS2 Christmas School Disco 4.30-5.30pm

(£4 per ticket. Tickets include a drink and a snack)



Thursday 11th December

Christmas Jumper Day!

Friday 12th December

Santa Dash Day (information to follow)

Monday 15th December

Class Christmas Parties!
(information to follow)

Tuesday 16th December

9.15am KS1 and Years 3&4 performance of "Humph the Camel"

2.15pm EYFS Nativity Performance

Wednesday 17th December

9.30am EYFS Nativity Performance

2pm KS1 and Years 3&4 performance of "Humph the Camel"

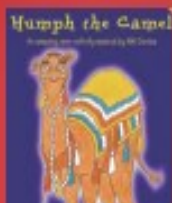
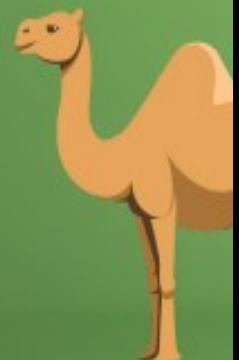
Thursday 18th December

9.30-10.30am Christmas Church Service at All Saints Church

Christmas Dinner Day!

More information about tickets for

**Christmas Performances and School Discos
to follow!**



RICHARD HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL'S

CHRISTMAS DISCOS

**WEDNESDAY
10TH
DECEMBER**

TICKETS - £4* *
INCLUDES A DRINK AND
SNACK
PLEASE PURCHASE
TICKETS VIA ARBOR



EYFS&KS1: 3.30-4.30PM

KS2: 4.30-5.30PM

EYFS AND KS1 CHILDREN CAN COME TO THE DISCO STRAIGHT FROM
SCHOOL. PLEASE SEND PARTY CLOTHES IN A LABELLED BAG TO
CHANGE IN TO.



Christmas Cake Raffle

What Is The Cake Raffle? – Throughout December we will be doing a weekly draw which will take place during Collective Worship on Friday. If your child's ticket is pulled out then they win a cake which has been donated by another parent/carer/teacher. The purpose of the raffle is to raise money for the school, to spend on Phonics and Reading resources and enrichment activities for the children.

How Does It Work? – It will cost £1 for 5 tickets and the child's name will be written on their ticket which is then put in the draw. The cake (it could be one large cake, several little cakes, scones, tarts, brownies, biscuits – whatever the parent, carer, grandparent, relative or teacher is willing to donate) is brought into school on Friday morning for the draw that afternoon. The child whose adult has donated the cake, draws that week's ticket. The more tickets we sell, the more money we raise for the children.

Buying Tickets – You can buy tickets throughout the whole week on the school gate.

As always, many thanks for your continued support!



Christmas Performances

During the children's Christmas Performances we will be selling refreshments to help raise money for school (please note no hot drinks will be available due to health and safety).

With this in mind, school would appreciate donations of mince pies or cupcakes etc to go with the refreshments being sold.

Please hand your donations in to school on Monday 15th December.



Performance Dates:

Tuesday 16th December – KS1 and Year 3/4 Christmas Performance (9:15am)

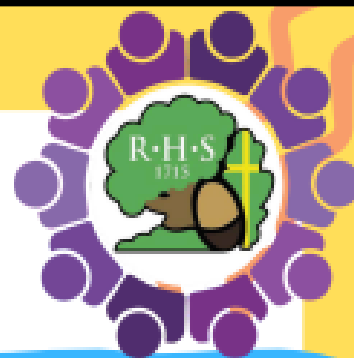
Tuesday 16th December – EYFS Performance (2:15)

Wednesday 17th December – EYFS Performance (9:30)

Wednesday 17th December – KS1 and Year 3/4 Christmas Performance
(2pm)

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

For more details, please email the school office!



DANCE WORKSHOP

5th November in school 1-3pm
EYFS - Year 6 with Louise



GYMNASTICS CLUB

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



FOOTBALL

KS2
Details TBC
Booking required
through ME sports

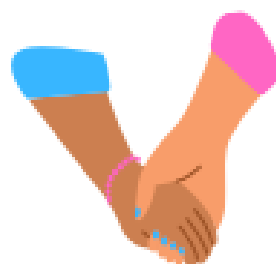


BALANCE BIKES

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

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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

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



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

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