

Richard Hill Primary

School Newsletter



"You will know them by their fruits."

January 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy and exciting few weeks in school. In December and January, we have enjoyed some fantastic moments that truly showcase the talents of our children. We were treated to some wonderful Christmas performances, where the children impressed us with their confidence and teamwork. Our Christmas Church Service was a beautiful moment of reflection and community spirit, and our Christmas raffles were a great success, helping us raise funds to support various school projects.

In Early Years, our first class held a lovely assembly based on "Dear Zoo", and we look forward to the other year groups presenting their assemblies later in the summer term.

We are incredibly proud of all our children for their resilience and determination during recent assessments. Their positive attitudes and hard work is inspiring, and our strong focus on teaching and learning continues to ensure that every child has the opportunity to achieve their best outcomes.

We are also delighted to welcome Mrs. Bernard to our teaching team. She will support our teachers during their PPA (Planning, Preparation, and Assessment) time and leadership periods out of the classroom, helping us continue to provide high-quality education for all our pupils.

Throughout these busy weeks, we have also observed our children demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit—kindness, patience, self-control, and joy—in all they do. Their positive behaviours and caring attitudes truly make our school a nurturing and inspiring environment.

Additionally, we are excited about upcoming projects, including planting new trees in our playground grass areas and working with local farmers to learn more about farming, sustainability, and the natural environment. We are looking forward to parents' evenings coming up, where we will have the chance to share the children's progress and celebrate their achievements together.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to celebrating these achievements and sharing many more memorable moments with you throughout the year.

Warm regards,

Mrs McVeigh

Dates for your diary

February

Wednesday 11th February

Always Tea Afternoon

Tuesday 10th February

Parents' Evening

Thursday 12th February

Parents' Evening

Friday 13th February

Last day of term

Monday 23rd February

First day of term

March

Monday 9th March

CUSP Celebration Breakfast

Thursday 12th March

Young Farmers Visit and tree Planting

Thursday 26th March

Easter Church Service

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Governor Spot

Welcome to Governor Spot, a place to keep you informed of our work as Governors and to introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors. My name is Patrick, and I am the chair of governors of 3 other schools too. I am not an educational practitioner, but in the past had a long career as an Army officer.

My aim is to lead the School Local Trust Committee (LTC) made up of some very dedicated people, who as governors are all keen to ensure the school maintains its high standard of teaching and learning in a Christian setting, so our children can flourish and be secondary ready when they leave.

Governors will do this by supporting the Head Teacher and through her, all the school staff, by providing a healthy challenge particularly at LTC meetings, and by knowing the school. Governors will carry out monitoring visits and I hope I shall be able to catch up the other governors and get to know the school well.

As governors we take our role as stakeholders from the community seriously, but do not get involved in the operational side of teaching and learning. That is up to the Head Teacher and her staff guided as directed by the Central Team of Learn Academies Trust. Governors concentrate more on vision and strategic issues, checking on staff well-being and holding the Head Teacher to account in a friendly and positive manner.

I hope to really engage with the school towards the end of January. For in the meantime, I am about to leave for a weeks holiday in Thailand. When I return I look forward to meeting you informally, probably at the school gate!

Patrick Rendall MBE

Chair of Governors

Richard Hill CE Primary School



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Cake Raffle and Nativity Refreshments

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the parents who generously donated mince pies, cakes, and festive treats for us to sell during the Nativity performances. As well as a massive thank you to the parents and grandparents who made and donated items for the cake raffle. Your support made such a difference and helped us raise valuable funds for the school.

Everyone's kindness and contributions are truly appreciated. It's moments like these that remind us what a fantastic school community we have.

Thank you for helping make our fundraising a success and for bringing so much festive cheer to our event. We managed to raise an incredible £161 which we will be using to buy Phonics resources and reading books for the children.



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School Council at Richard Hill!

We are delighted to share that our newly elected School Council is now up and running at Richard Hill, representing the voices and ideas of pupils across the school. Councillor's applications were short listed by Mrs McVeigh, followed by a whole school vote. They will start to meet regularly with Mr Smith to share suggestions, discuss improvements, and help shape decisions that make our school an even better place to learn and flourish.

During their first committee meeting, they will be discussing World Book Day, thinking of events we can do throughout the school to promote our love of reading!



They will then take their ideas to the school to vote.

We look forward to sharing the children's results with you soon!

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Wren Class

In December, we were fully immersed in the festive season - practising for our Nativity performance and creating a wonderful variety of Christmas crafts. We are incredibly proud of how hard the children worked and how beautifully they performed.

When we returned in January, we jumped straight into exploring the seasons, carrying out exciting science experiments, and much more. The children especially loved creating artwork with ice paint and investigating where ice melts the fastest. They made predictions, tested their ideas, and had a fantastic time discovering the results.

Osprey Class

Where do I start describing about our brilliant, extremely busy December! The children were incredible learning all the songs for the nativity, and their enthusiasm filled the classroom with festive spirit. They also created beautiful Christmas cards to take home, each one made with great care and creativity based on our DT unit. As always, the children continued to impress us with their focus and determination, making excellent progress in Maths, English and Phonics. To top off an already magical term, we were delighted to have a very special visitor — Santa himself — who brought plenty of smiles and excitement to the day. It was a joyful time of learning, celebration and festive fun.

The children have returned to school with a fantastic attitude, full of energy and enthusiasm for the new term. They settled straight back into their routines and quickly immersed themselves in their learning. They have created some striking artwork inspired by Piet Mondrian, experimenting with bold colours, clean lines and geometric shapes to produce pieces they were truly proud of. Alongside their art, the children have also been busy writing their own short stories. Their imagination and creativity have shone through, and it's been wonderful to see them so engaged and eager to share their ideas. It has been a brilliant start to the term, and we are excited for all that's still to come.



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Ravens Class

December marked the wonderful finale of Year 1, 2, 3 and 4's performance of Humph the Camel. The children were incredible, and each show was a brilliant success. Thank you to everyone who came along - your support made the performances even more special, and we hope you enjoyed them as much as the children did.

January has been just as lively. The children have been diving into multiplication and division in Maths, crafting third-person narratives in Literacy, and exploring forces and magnets in Science. It's been an action packed start to the new year, and the children continue to grow in confidence, curiosity and skill.



Red Kite Class

December was a fantastic month! I was so proud of the children for their incredible hard work, especially in their story writing about Ancient Greece- the creativity and effort they put in was outstanding. I am also very proud of the way they have tackled long division in Maths, showing perseverance and determination to master this challenging skill. They did a fabulous job in the church service, showing confidence and maturity, and being wonderful role models for younger children. In addition, the Year 6 pupils have been making excellent progress in their Bikeability course, developing important cycling skills and road safety awareness.



January has begun with real energy and enthusiasm, and the Year 6 pupils have shown tremendous determination as they completed their assessments.

They should feel very proud of their results and the resilience they demonstrated throughout. In class, the children have also been diving into Science experiments, channeling their curiosity as they explore, question, and discover new ideas.

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"You will know them by their fruits."

Breakfast Club

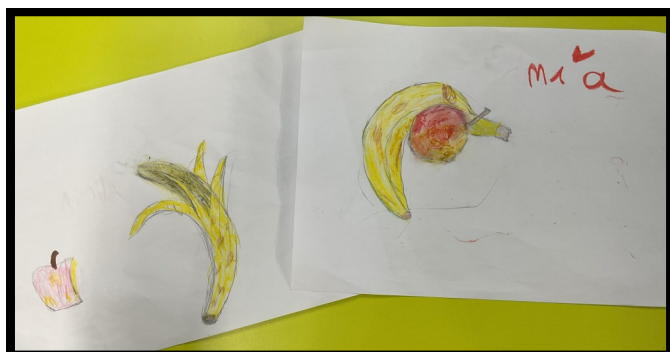
In Breakfast Club the children have been playing games! They have been focusing on team building games in the hall to get them ready to learn in class!

Amazing Afterschool Club

In the Amazing Afterschool Club we have been talking about what we want to do when we are older, and drawing pictures of ourselves in the future.



The children also had a go at some still life drawings, reading and sharing books and writing book reviews. They have been sharing what makes us happy and used this to make a cup full of happiness!



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



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



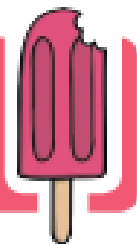
- I join in games and activities with other people.
- I can share and take turns.

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.



1 2 3 4 5 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.



How to support my child when working with them at home?



How Can I Help My Child?

Do Exercise

Exercise is a great way to reduce stress and it even releases happy hormones. Find something fun that your child likes to do and try to get regular exercise such as attending a regular sports club or activity, going for a walk, bike riding or even a computer game that involves movement and dancing. Try to encourage your child to stay active throughout the entire year and not just during the SATs period. This could include something that you enjoy doing together such as cycling or skating.

Get Outdoors

Getting outdoors helps to relieve stress, naturally lowering levels of the stress hormone cortisol. Even five minutes in nature can help reduce stress and boost mood. This could be going to the park after school for a short break or getting out at weekends.

Eat Well

Getting the right foods is vital for your child's health and can help them during the exam period. Some parents find that high-fat, high-sugar and highly processed foods (such as fizzy drinks, sweets, burgers and chips) can make their children hyperactive, irritable and moody. Let your child choose healthy food options and be involved in the meal planning where possible.

Plan a Reward

Have a reward planned for your child for when they finish this busy SATs period. This could be time in their favourite place, going to the cinema or a special meal that they like - something special to celebrate all the hard work they have put in during this period. This will also give your child something to look forward to after they have completed their tests.

Get Plenty of Rest

This is a simple yet effective way to help deal with stress and anxiety. Ensure that your child has a good bedtime routine and gets enough sleep for their age. The recommended amount of sleep for an average ten or eleven-year-old is between 9 and 11 hours' sleep per night.

Take Plenty of Breaks

During the SATs period (and in year 6 in general), children can receive lots of additional demands on their time in the form of extra homework and revision: reading, comprehension, spelling, grammar, punctuation and maths - there is lots to revise throughout this year! However, limit homework to a set amount of time each day or week and ensure your child gets lots of 'downtime'. Remember, they will have had a busy day of learning at school, so they will be tired when they arrive home. Also, encourage a mixture of breaktime activities - sometimes they may like to relax and watch television or play computer games; at other times it might be good to get active and go outdoors (weather permitting).



Online Safety Month at Richard Hill



CBeebies Parenting and Apps

CBeebies Parenting is full of useful information from creative activities, recipes and information about the CBeebies apps.

CBeebies apps are free to download with no in-app purchases. Their apps include:

- Playtime Island - Fun Games for Kids App. This app includes 40 free games.
- CBeebies Learn - Early Years Learning App. This app includes games and videos and is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.
- Get Creative - Open-ended Creative Activities App. This app is free and includes lots of drawing and painting activities.
- Storytime - Reading Stories App. This app includes interactive story books.

You can find out more here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/parenting>

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/february-2026-primary/>

Using AI to alter images

AI image generator and moderator tools are widely available and often used by children. Whilst these tools can be used for creative purposes, we need to ensure our children are aware of the appropriate way in which to use them and the circumstances when they should not be used, even if harm is not intended.

What are AI image generator and moderator tools?

It is when Artificial Intelligence is used to create or modify images, for example it could be used to swap faces, change expressions or for more sinister reasons, such as to remove clothes. These images are often very realistic and therefore difficult to see that they are fake.

Privacy concerns and consent

If your child is using these tools, they need to be aware of potential loss of privacy and the importance of consent. They should know that they should only use images of other people with consent.

What does my child need to know about using these tools?

- Children shouldn't use AI tools to manipulate images of school staff. Even if the child's intention is not malicious, children should not use AI tools to create or edit photos of teachers under any circumstances.
- Manipulation of images of friends or other children – if you are using images of other people, then consent **must** always be sought.
- The tools should not be used to create images that can embarrass or hurt others - this is a form of online bullying.
- Copyright issues – who owns the copyright? These images could be reused by others, which can affect their own digital footprint.

What should I do?

- Chat to your child if they are using these tools and ascertain the reason why. Ask them to show you the images that they have created.
- Check the age ratings of any apps/websites that your child is using and set up appropriate parental controls.
- Develop your child's digital literacy by teaching them to recognise online risks and to behave responsibly online

Further information

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-to-children-about-ai>
- <https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2025/02/18/understanding-image-consent-at-schools/>

Online Safety Month at Richard Hill



TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok. TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. If your child is using TikTok then make sure appropriate security / privacy settings are applied.

Account set up

It is important that your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age e.g., Direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15. In addition, advertisements are tailored by age. By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private. You can read more about the other settings available, such as switching off comments and restricted mode here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/privacy-and-safety-settings-for-users-under-age-18>

Family Pairing

Family Pairing allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode or tailor your child's 'For You' feed by selecting keywords that TikTok will use to filter out posts. You can find out more here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/account-and-user-safety/family-pairing>

What do I need to be aware of?

- **Inappropriate content and themes:** whilst against guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech. Some of the songs available to lip sync to may contain inappropriate lyrics/themes.
- **Challenges:** We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be **risky/dangerous**. Sadly, there are reports that children have died whilst attempting online challenges. Children may not yet have developed the skills and ability to critically analyse that what they see online is not always safe for them to replicate.
- **Stranger contact:** chat to your child about how people may not be who they say they are when online.

Refresh your feed

You can refresh your "For You" feed to update the content recommended: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/refresh-your-for-you-feed>

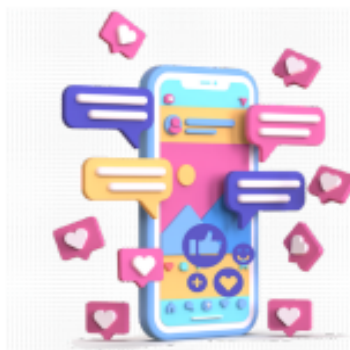
Blocking and Reporting

Show your child how to use the safety features available.

Further information

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>
- <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide>

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Balance screen time tips

Internet Matters have created simple tips to help you develop healthy online habits for your child. They also answer key questions such as "how much screentime is too much" and "is gaming bad for children." Access this information here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/creating-a-balanced-digital-diet-with-screen-time-tips>

7 Steps to Good Digital Parenting

The Family Online Safety Institute have created seven steps to assist you as a digital parent. Find out more here:

<https://fosi.org/program/7-steps-to-good-digital-parenting/>

Children's Commissioner launches new guide for parents and carers

The Children's Commissioner has released a new guide to help you in managing your child's digital life. The guide was written with direct involvement from children.

It includes advice on setting boundaries such as no devices in the bedroom and how to chat to your child. You can find the guide here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/blog/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-childrens-commissioner-launches-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>



CUSP CELEBRATION BREAKFAST



MONDAY 9TH MARCH
8-8.45AM
SCHOOL HALL



Science

COME AND SEE YOUR CHILDREN'S CUSP
WORK AND HAVE BREAKFAST WITH US!
THIS EVENT IS FOR ALL CHILDREN IN
SCHOOL.

Reading

Art

History

THEY MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN
ADULT.

Writing



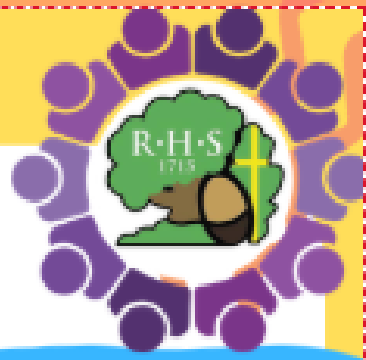
*Design &
Technology*

Geography



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

For more details, please email the school office!



CHESS CLUB



Wednesday Lunchtimes!
KS2

GYMNASTICS CLUB

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

MULTI-SPORTS



Years 1-6
Monday 3.20-4.20pm
afterschool
Spaces available!



BIKEABILITY

Year 6 with Sophie

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

SPRING TERM 2025





RICHARD HILL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Proud members of Learn Academies Trust

Spaces
available for
September
2026 starters

PRESCHOOL



A VIBRANT PRESCHOOL LOCATED IN OUR EARLY YEARS SETTING

Located in the picturesque village of Thurcaston, in the borough of Charnwood, we are just moments from Swithland Woods, Anstey and Beaumont Leys, providing brilliant opportunities for children aged 3+.

Our preschool provides the perfect introduction to school life, through play and exploration. We believe in nurturing our children and ensuring they have the care and support they need, to flourish in life.

"This is a happy school where pupils are enthusiastic about their learning. Behaviour in the school is calm and orderly. Pupils feel safe and well supported. The school takes great care to include all pupils in everything that it does"

Ofsted 2025: GOOD

We have morning and afternoon spaces available - with flexible booking options to support our parents.

We offer 15 or 30 hours of free childcare through the Government funding scheme.

We run our own Wraparound Care, from 7.45am to 5.45pm each day, which is open to our preschool and Reception aged children.

Our preschool is run by an experienced teacher with qualified support staff, to ensure excellent continuity of care.

Our school was recent rated as Good by Ofsted and we provide great preparation and readiness for starting school.

We have close links to the village and wider community, including the local parish church and community groups.

We offer a warm, caring, family feel, where children are recognised, taught and supported as individuals.

We have lots of indoor and outdoor space for the children to explore and enjoy.

Book your preschool tour today

office@ric.learnat.uk or 0116 234 0212
www.richardhillschool.co.uk

Richard Hill CE Primary School, 12 Anstey Lane, Thurcaston, Leicestershire, LE7 7JA



Richard Hill Primary

School Newsletter



"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



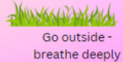
Talk to someone - a friend or an adult



Put your worry in the worry monster



Do a calming activity



Go outside - breathe deeply



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

EMBER 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
Respect	Individual Liberty
Tolerance	BEYOND



Thank you for visiting us!



School Website



Getting Ready for School

