

Reeth Community and Gunnerside Methodist Primary Schools



“COMMUNIQUE”

15th July 2020 No 5. Summer Term

WELL DONE, EVERYONE

We have been so impressed with pupils' approach to learning, both at home and at school this term. Thank you all – pupils, parents and staff – for making learning arrangements work in the difficult circumstances that we have experienced.

As we come to the end of term, it's a good time to celebrate your child's achievements and effort and it has been great to hear that more families have been in touch to order their reward books from White Rose in Thirsk. Well done to Abigail, pictured here with her new book, *The Scarecrows' Wedding*.

The best way to place an order is to give the book shop a call on 01845 524353. The staff are really helpful and will be able to help you to choose a book and they can order books in if they are not in stock. The scheme will run through to the end of August.



RETURN OF SCHOOL READING BOOKS

If you have any school reading books at home, please try to return them by the end of term.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2020

The Summer Reading Challenge is a free reading for pleasure programme designed for children between the ages of 4 and 11. Usually, the challenge takes place in libraries across the country. This year, with disruption to library opening hours, the challenge is based online. The [website](#) is free to access and a place for children to rate and review their books and work towards their reading goal. It will also feature video content, games, quizzes and digital and downloadable activities. Children set a personal reading goal at the beginning of their challenge and receive digital incentives along the way when they log their books on the website to encourage them. There's a digital certificate for everyone who finishes the challenge.

If you would like to complete the summer reading challenge, but would prefer not to use the online version this year, you are very welcome to take a photograph of the books that your child has read over the summer, send it to school in the autumn term and we will present them with a certificate in a class assembly.

WELCOMING BACK ALL PUPILS IN SEPTEMBER

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all pupils back to school in the autumn term. Towards the end of the holiday, at the start of September, I will send detailed guidance on our arrangements by email. By then, guidance from the Department for Education and from our local authority will be as up to date as possible, helping to ensure that the information we share with you then will be accurate. In the meantime, please find below some key aspects of autumn term provision.

- All pupils will be expected to attend school full time.
- Pupils will continue to learn in groups or bubbles, although the size of these will increase beyond 15, the maximum group size that we have been operating with this term. Our normal class structure (Early Years, Year 1 & 2, Year 3 & 4, Year 5 & 6) will be used to organise the bubbles. These units will operate separately to reduce contact between pupils. With our class sizes being smaller than average, this will provide an increased level of safety compared to many schools.
- Pupils in Early Years and Year 1 & 2 will be taught at Reeth. Pupils in KS2 will be taught at Gunnerside, five days per week. We usually teach KS2 pupils at Reeth on Friday, but we will not be able to enjoy the benefits of this, as whole school events like assemblies are not advised. By teaching pupils at Gunnerside, everyone will be able to benefit from the additional space available.
- When completing desk-based learning, pupils will be seated at their own individual desks, as they have been this term. Pupils will have their own stationery that they will store in their own tidy tray, along with their books and other items.
- Teaching staff will largely work with one group of pupils.
- We hope to offer one afterschool club for each bubble.
- We'll continue to provide guidance on handwashing, prompting pupils to do this on arrival at school and before leaving at the end of the day, as well as at key points during the day.

I realise that some families may be cautious about returning to school in the autumn. When I share final details with you at the start of September, there will be opportunity for you to discuss arrangements with me so that we can ensure that you are confident and reassured of safety.

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION GUIDANCE

Please visit the gov.uk website if you would like to view the latest [Department for Education guidance](#) on what parents and carers need to know about school provision in the autumn term.

STAFFING FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

We are pleased to inform you that we have completed a further recruitment process this week in preparation for the new academic year, appointing Mrs Mandy Lane and Mr Jack Mattison as teaching assistants. A high staff to pupil ratio in the year ahead will ensure that we offer the very highest levels of support for each pupil as we try to maximise learning experiences and opportunities. Our teaching teams have been arranged to reduce and minimise staff changes between class bubbles.

Early Years	Mrs Katie Stainsby, Mrs Rosemary Walker, Mrs Donna Durrant
Year 1 & 2	Miss Abby Codman, Mrs Sharon Atkinson, Mrs Gemma Fallon, Mr Jack Mattison
Year 3 & 4	Mrs Catherine Guy, Miss Lynsey Dinsdale, Mrs Sarah Allison
Year 5 & 6	Mrs Clare Bastow, Mr Gordon Stainsby, Mrs Mandy Lane, Mrs Katharine Tranter

REFURBISHMENT WORKS OVER THE SUMMER

We are pleased to let you know that we have building works scheduled at both schools over the summer holiday. At Gunnerside School, we are refurbishing the central classroom by removing an internal wall to increase space and provide more natural light. Year 5 & 6 will be based in the new large classroom. Year 3 & 4 will be accommodated in the current maths room. The library will be relocated to the west wing, creating a good place for reading and for group work. At Reeth School, the Elmer Room will have a new ceiling and lighting. The projects will continue our work to ensure that the learning environment is as effective and as modern as possible.

TRANSITION TO RECEPTION

We know that lots of nursery pupils will be looking forward to starting school full time in September. We encourage all pupils to attend full time as soon as possible. If you think that your child would benefit from part time attendance in the first week or two, then please let us know. We recommend completing all five mornings if this is the case, building up to full time by the start of the third week.

TRANSITION TO NURSERY

We realise that pupils have not benefited from the taster day that we usually provide, but please be assured that each pupil will be well supported as they begin their school journey. We will arrange additional staffing in September to ensure that every pupil can work at their own pace as they grow in confidence and become familiar with the setting.

LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS

When we return to school in September, packed lunches will be offered for the first two weeks. We hope to return to hot meals as soon as possible after that and will be in touch with the autumn menu in September.

We really value our school kitchen service that enables us to offer freshly prepared and nutritionally balanced meals to pupils each day at both sites. The service, provided by the Local Authority, does have a cost implication for our school, over and above the amount we charge to parents, but the Governors are keen not to increase meals prices for families. Meal prices for September 2020 will therefore continue to be offered at the current price of:

- Nursery meal £2.00
- KS2 pupil meal £2.50 (£12.50 per week)

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, will continue to receive free meals under the national universal infant free school meals initiative funded by the government.

MORNING BREAKTIME DRINKS

We plan to offer morning drinks again in September. Pupils will be asked not to bring cash for drinks, with Parent Pay our preference. We'll share further details in preparation for the start of term.

SWIMMING LESSONS



We usually provide swimming lessons for pupils in KS1 and KS2 in the autumn term. This provision is postponed at the moment. We will be in touch later in the term when we know more.

DATES FOR 2020/21

School Term Dates

A list of school term dates for the academic year 2020/21 has previously been sent home and is available on our school website for reference.

Statutory Test Dates

Year group	Test	Dates/Details
Year 6	KS2 tests	Test dates are 10 th , 11 th , 12 th and 13 th May 2021
Year 4	Multiplication Tables check	A 3-week period from Monday 7 th June 2021
Year 2	KS1 tests	May 2021
Year 1 / 2	Phonics test	Pupils will be tested between 7 th and 11 th June 2020

SELECTION OF WORK BEING SENT HOME ON FRIDAY

Pupils that have been learning in school in recent weeks will bring home a selection of their work this week. We'll use a new envelope or your child's plastic folder to package the work. You may choose to keep the work in a safe place for a week to maximise safety.

Thank you all for your support over the course of the year. On behalf of all staff, we wish everyone an enjoyable and restful summer break and look forward to welcoming all pupils into their new year groups in September.



Gordon Stainsby
Headteacher