

# Reeth and Gunnerside Schools



## Newsletter 1 Autumn Term 2024

### WELCOME BACK

We hope that you have had a restful summer holiday and that your child has enjoyed their first week in school. The start of term is always a positive time, being both a fresh start and a chance to step up, taking on new challenges. School staff have been really impressed by pupils' enthusiasm for learning and their calm, focused approach to classroom life.

We very much look forward to working with you in the year ahead. If there is any aspect of school life that you would like more information about or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact school. We'll do all we can to help.

*G. Stainsby*

Gordon Stainsby, Headteacher  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September



"I've really enjoyed welcoming the younger pupils that have joined us in Year 3, and I've loved the maths that we have been doing." Charlotte

"I'm really enjoying the first days back at school because I feel relaxed and fresh. It's good to be back learning and I love seeing my friends." Leo

"I'm excited to be back at school. It's a really nice fresh start." Daniel

"Going back to school has been really good because Mr Fremlin is a really nice teacher. I have loved the things we've been learning about so far." Alexa

"I really enjoyed Year 3 with Mrs Bastow and I'm hoping to enjoy Year 4 even more." Kane

"It's good going on the bus each day. I really like starting a new class; it's like a really good fresh start." Marianne



"I was a little bit worried worried but now I feel good because it's fun." Eliza

"I give it two thumbs up because I like doing tricky maths." Evie

"I think it's good at school because we learn more things and I see my friends that I haven't seen in ages." Charlotte

"I like the new toys outside." Arthur

"I have enjoyed playing with my friends." Polly

"I've been playing in the mud kitchen." Harry

### START OF YEAR SERVICE – GUNNERSIDE CHAPEL

Pupils from Reception, KS1 and KS2 will attend our start of year service on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September. We will hear from pupils and our school chaplain, celebrating our return to school and all that the year ahead has in store.

Parents and the wider community are very much welcome – please do join us if you can. We'll start at 9:30am.

## PHONICS MEETING FOR PARENTS

We teach reading using a systematic and synthetic phonics programme called *Little Wandle*. We start teaching phonics in Nursery and Reception and follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised progression, which ensures children build on their growing knowledge of the alphabetic code, mastering phonics to read and spell as they move through school.

We really appreciate the support that parents provide; reading at home as well as at school helps pupils to progress quickly. School staff will lead a short phonics meeting for parents of EY and KS1 pupils on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 4pm, at Reeth School.

## NURSERY SESSIONS

Nursery pupils have made a great start this term. We do have some additional spaces on most days at the moment, so please do contact the school office if you would like to book any extra time. Any hours booked before week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> October will benefit the school in terms of funding. Thank you.

## CURRICULUM INFORMATION

An overview of your child's learning this half-term is being sent to you by SchoolPing today. We hope this information will be useful for you in supporting your child with their learning journey. More detailed curriculum information is available on our school website.

## HOME SCHOOL LOG BOOKS & MATHS TARGETS

To streamline information sharing, we've decided to record everything in chronological order in the home school books this year. All updates and records (reading, homework, teacher notes) will be at the front.

We are relaunching our maths targets this term, with additional exemplification available for pupils and parents on the type of questions that pupils need to be able to complete. We'll include the examples in home school books and they are also available on our school website.

## FREE FAMILY SWIMMING

We're pleased to let you know that our free family swimming scheme will continue this school year. Please continue to enjoy use of the local pools as detailed below:

- We provide a 'family swimming card' to all pupils. These cards can be used at both Richmond Swimming Pool and Catterick Swimming Pool. Pupils new to school will bring home a card in their purple school bag soon. If you need a new card, please contact school.
- The card can be used during the public swimming times offered by the pools, providing that the child pictured on the card is taking part in the swim session.
- Family members taking children swimming show the school 'family swimming card' for their child(ren) at the reception desk of the pool. Reception staff will ask parents to sign for admission but will not ask for any payment.
- Older and younger siblings (not on roll at our schools) are welcome to be included in the free swim session.
- Grandparents (or other family members) are welcome to accompany children in their family using the card, although the number of adults accompanying any pupil is limited at two.
- Swimming timetables can be viewed at:  
Richmond Pool - <https://richmond-swimming-pool.rltrust.org.uk/>  
Catterick Pool - <https://www.nuffieldhealth.com/catterick>
- Please note that the timetables change periodically.
- Both pools offer fun sessions at the weekends, and the swim cards can be used in the same way to access these sessions free of charge also.

We hope that you are able to swim as a family utilising the scheme as it really helps pupils to progress between their swimming lessons and is a great way to exercise.

## MEDICAL AND TELEPHONE CONTACT INFORMATION

A sheet of personal information that we currently hold in school for your child will be sent home to you soon. **Please check the information, make any necessary amendments on the form, and then sign and return it to us at your earliest convenience.** Latest best practice advises that schools hold a minimum of two contact telephone numbers per family. Please note that it is your responsibility to inform these contacts that you are sharing their information with us. Please remember to update school if there are any changes to your child's medical details or contact information so that we always have the correct information if we need to contact you in an emergency.

## MID-MORNING SNACK

A piece of fruit is provided free to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils each day as part of a national scheme. Pupils in Year 3 upwards are encouraged to bring to school a piece of fruit (fresh or dried) from home to enjoy at their morning break each day. Please note that snacks other than fruit should not be brought for break-time.

## AFTER SCHOOL COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS

Unless you inform us of alternative arrangements, we expect children either to be collected by their own parents or travel on the home-school transport route arranged by the council.

**Please let us know of any home-time arrangements which differ.** For example, tell us if your child:

- has permission from you to walk home unaccompanied on certain days, or every day;
- if your child is going to be collected by someone other than yourself;
- if your child is going straight through to the school hall for private dance lessons with Dales Dance;
- if your child is not going to travel on home-school transport;
- if your child is not going to return on the inter-site transport to their home-school.

If you need to let us know about an occasional arrangement, please try and let us know no later than 3pm so that staff have adequate time to pass on messages. Thank you.

We advise that all Early Years and Key Stage 1 pupils are supervised by an adult when walking to and from school.

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – FIRST HALF OF AUTUMN TERM

We are pleased to be able to offer a number of after school clubs for pupils this half term. All sessions will start in the second week back (week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> September) and will run through to the half term break in October.

**Please use SchoolPing to let us know which clubs your child(ren) would like to attend.**

Day and time	Location	Staff	Year groups	Club
Mondays 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Reeth School	Mrs Seymour	Reception, Y1 & Y2	Gymnastics
Mondays 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Reeth School	Stage 1 Cycles	Rec and Y1	Learn to ride – for children beginning to ride a pedal bike
Tuesdays 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Gunnerside School	John Clark	Y3 to Y6	Football
Wednesdays 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Reeth School	Mrs Seymour	Y1 to Y6	Scrabble
Thursdays 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Reeth School	John Clark	Y1 & Y2	Football
Fridays 3:30pm – 5:30pm	Reeth School	Mr Stainsby and Mrs Johnson	Y3 & Y4	Fell running

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sept	Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	Friends of School Quiz Evening – The Buck, Reeth – from 8:30pm
	Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	Swimming lessons begin at Catterick Leisure Centre, for some pupils in KS2
	Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	Phonics information evening at Reeth School – 4pm
	Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	Swimming lessons at Catterick Leisure Centre begin for Y1 and Y2
	Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	Start of year service – Gunnerside Chapel – 9:30am
	Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>	Open evening at Richmond School for Y6 pupils – 6pm
	Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	Open evening at SFX School for Y6 pupils – 5pm until 8pm
Oct	Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Parent meetings
	Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Parent meetings

Oct	Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Open evening at The Wensleydale School for Y6 pupils – 6pm until 8pm
	Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>	Last swimming lesson of the term for Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6
	Fri 18 <sup>th</sup>	Last swimming lesson of the term for Y1 and Y2
	Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup>	School closes for half-term

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR SUMMER 2024 STATUTORY TESTS

Each year the Department for Education set dates for statutory testing and all pupils in certain year groups must be in school to complete these on specific dates. Please find these dates outlined below:

Year group	Test dates and details
6	KS2 tests Monday 12th May to Thursday 15th May 2025
4	Multiplication tables test within the 3-week period from Monday 2nd June 2025
2	Optional KS1 tests administered during May 2025
1	Phonics tests during week commencing Monday 9th June 2025