

# Reeth and Gunnerside Schools



## Newsletter 1 Autumn Term 2025

### 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. In assemblies this week, we have talked about making the most of the school year, by having high aspirations, completing each day and every task one step at a time, and as well as we can. Through high expectations of ourselves, we can both achieve well and enjoy all that school life offers. School staff have been really impressed by pupils' enthusiasm for learning and their calm, focused approach to classroom life this week – keep it going!

Pupils from KS1 and KS2 will attend our start of year service on Wednesday 10<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.

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 5<sup>th</sup> September

### START OF TERM PHOTOS

Pupils have been hard at work and having fun!



## PUPIL COMMENTS

The comments below give a sense of what it's like to be back at school and capture children's commitment to learning and enjoyment of lessons.

'I'm happy to see my friends again.' Eliza	'I'm looking forward to reading books with Miss Codman again.' Belle	'I like coming back to school to do my maths.' Seth W
'I'm looking forward to swimming.' Annie and Eli	'I'm excited about the new year because we'll be learning harder things.' Charlotte	'I'm looking forward to getting better at literacy and writing more now I'm in Y2.' Olivia
'I've settled in well and have enjoyed doing harder jobs.' Raife	'I was nervous about starting school at Gunnerside, but now I feel very confident.' Phoebe	'I've really enjoyed learning about the Vikings in history.' Evie
'I love it outside at Gunnerside School. When I'm on the swing I can see the nature.' Rosie	This week has been amazing. I loved learning about Roman numerals in maths and Romulus and Remus in reading. It has been so much fun. Harper	I think the first week of school has been fun even though it's been hard to get used to waking up early again! I like all of the new topics and Mrs Kiernan is really nice. I like being in a class with new people and teachers. Josh
We are already doing harder subjects which I like because it challenges me. Eva	I have loved the first week at my new school. I have been invited to play games, and everyone is so kind. I loved the computing lesson and learnt I lot that I didn't know before. Vivienne	

## GOOD BEHAVIOUR CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to the children below that received good behaviour certificates at the end of last term.

BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
Eli Atkinson, Toby Sunter, Phoebe Guy, Charlotte Dixon, Eliza Guy, Amy Allison, Thalia Calvert, Olivia Sunter, Holly Calvert	Orla Stainsby, Jake Williams, Raife Coates, Polly Kendall, Rose Clarkson	Jack Rukin, Albie Gredziak, Ethan Thompson, Chloe Reynoldson, Rose Calvert, Abigail Sunter

## 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 Y1 pupils on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 3:45pm, at Reeth School.

## THANK YOU

*Thank you to everyone for all of your kind and thoughtful messages, cards, flowers, pictures and gifts to wish me a happy retirement.*

*Mrs Allison*

## 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.

## GARDEN STORE – FREE TO A NEW HOME

One of our plastic storage sheds has reached the end of its useable life as a playtime equipment store. The front doors no longer attach, but it could still work as a log store or for garden storage.

It's available now, free of charge, and we can deliver it to your home if that is helpful. If you would like it, please contact the school office.



## FREE FAMILY SWIMMING

We're pleased to let you know that our free family swimming scheme will continue this school year. 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.

- We provide a 'family swimming card' to all pupils. 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 at Catterick pool, 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. Staff will record your family name, 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.
- The pool offers fun sessions as part of the timetable, and the swim cards can be used in the same way to access these sessions free of charge also.
- Please note that Richmond pool is currently closed.

## 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 KS1 pupils are supervised by an adult when walking to and from school.

## WRAPAROUND PROVISION

We're pleased to let you know that our breakfast and wraparound offer, based at Reeth, continues this year. We've adjusted the days so that the service is available to meet parent requirements as best we can.

Breakfast: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 7:45am

After school: Tuesdays and Thursdays until 5:45pm

Costs remain the same for the year ahead: £5 for breakfast and £10 for after school sessions.

The service has included nursery age pupils and will continue to do so for the year ahead. Please note that as part of a review of our offer, a year from now in September 2026, provision will be for pupils in reception through to Y6.

## 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. Most sessions will start in the second week back (week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> September) and will run through to the half term break in October. Gymnastics will start in the third week of term.

**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, <b>from 15<sup>th</sup> September</b> 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Reeth School	Mrs Seymour	Reception, Y1 & Y2	Gymnastics
Tuesdays 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Gunnerside School	John Clark Mike Layfield Sports	Y5 & Y6	Football
Tuesdays 3:30pm – 4:45pm	Reeth MUGA	Stage 1 Cycles	Early years	Learn to ride
Fridays 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	Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	Swimming lessons begin at Catterick Leisure Centre, for some pupils in Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 Parent meeting for the York residential, Reeth School, 4pm
	Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	Start of year service for pupils in Y1 to Y6, Gunnerside Chapel, 9:30am
	Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	Phonics information meeting for parents, Reeth School, 3:45pm
	Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	Swimming lessons at Catterick Leisure Centre begin for Y1 and Y2
	Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	Friends of school meeting, The Punch Bowl Inn, Low Row, 7pm
	Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	Cluster football event for team of Y5&6 boys (am) at The Wensleydale School
	Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup>	KS2 York residential (2 days)
	Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	The Wensleydale School open evening for Y6 pupils, 6pm (Y5 pupils can also attend)
	Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>	Cluster football event for team of Y5&6 girls (am) at The Wensleydale school
Oct	Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Richmond School open evening for Y6 pupils, 5pm to 7:30pm
	Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	Friends of School relay
	Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	SFX open evening for Year 6 pupils. 5pm to 7pm
	Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	Last swimming lesson of the term for Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6
	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	Last swimming lesson of the term for Y1 and Y2
	Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	KS2 cross country event at Richmond School
	Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Cluster hockey event for team of Y5&6 pupils at The Wensleydale School School closes for half-term
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	Staff training day	

Nov	Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	School reopens
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### IMPORTANT DATES FOR SUMMER 2026 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 11th May to Thursday 14th May 2026
4	Multiplication tables test within the 3-week period from Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026
2	Optional KS1 tests administered during May 2026
1	Phonics tests during week commencing Monday 8th June 2026