

Richard Hill Primary

School Newsletter



"You will know them by their fruits."

September 2025

Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great joy that I write to you for the first time as Acting Headteacher of Richard Hill C of E Primary School. I feel privileged to lead in such a vibrant and caring school community, and I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome I have already received.

The start of the school year has been a positive one, and I am delighted to share that all our children are settling in well. Classrooms are alive with learning, and there is already a strong sense of belonging and enthusiasm in every corner of the school.

At Richard Hill, our values of joy, love, peace, self-control, kindness, patience, goodness, faithfulness and gentleness are at the heart of everything we do. These values guide the way we learn, play, and grow together, helping us to nurture not only academic success but also the character and wellbeing of every child. I am proud to see these qualities shining through in the daily life of our school, whether in the classroom, on the playground, or in the way our children care for one another.

As we look ahead, I am excited to continue working in partnership with you to support every child in reaching their full potential. Together, we can ensure Richard Hill remains a place where children flourish both personally and academically, in an environment shaped by our shared values.

Thank you once again for your support and trust. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the coming weeks and to all that we will achieve together in the year ahead.

With warm regards,

Mrs Ellen McVeigh

Dates for your diary

October

Thursday 2nd October

Parents Evening

Thursday 9th - Tuesday 14th October

Book Fair - 3.15-3.45pm

Tuesday 14th October

Harvest Service in Church - 9:30am

Wednesday 15th October

EYFS Stay and Play session - 9:15am

Friday 17th October

Last day of half term

Wednesday 29th October

School reopens

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Welcome Message from the Area **Director of Schools**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this message finds you and your family well. My name is Sarah Sadler, and I'm truly honoured to step into the role of Area Director of Schools for our wonderful community.

As a parent myself, I understand the hopes, dreams, and occasional worries that come with sending your child off to school each day. That's why I'm deeply committed to ensuring our schools are places where every child feels safe, valued, and inspired to learn.

Over the years, I've had the privilege of working alongside passionate educators and dedicated families, and I've seen firsthand how powerful it is when we work together. I believe in open communication, mutual respect, and celebrating the unique strengths each child brings to the classroom.

Whether your child is just beginning their school journey or continuing to grow and thrive, I wish them the best success possible. I'll be visiting schools regularly, listening to your feedback, and doing everything I can to make sure our schools continue to be places of excellence and joy.

Thank you for being such an important part of our school community. I'm genuinely excited about the year ahead and look forward to meeting many of you in person at future community events.

Warmest wishes,
Sarah Sadler
Area Director of Schools



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Wren Class

Wren Class have made a fantastic start to their school journey, settling in beautifully over the past couple of weeks. The children are flourishing and showing great enthusiasm in their learning.

In Phonics, we've been focusing on the first set of phonemes, learning to identify initial sounds and beginning to blend them together.

In Maths, we've been exploring numbers up to five, with a particular focus on number composition and subitising—developing a strong foundation for number sense.

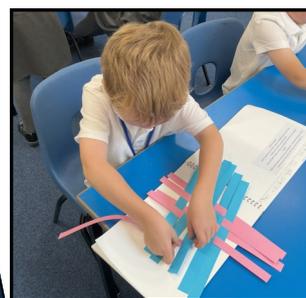
As part of our weekly topics, we've enjoyed sharing stories about our favourite summer moments, getting to know each other's families, and—most importantly—becoming familiar with our school environment.



Osprey Class

As we move through the first few weeks of the term, it is wonderfully to see how well the children have settled into school life. It has been a joy to see their enthusiasm, curiosity, and growing confidence as they adapt to new routines and build relationships with others in their class.

Along side daily Phonics, Maths and English lessons we have already covered a wide rang of subjects such as Art, Science and most recently Design and Techology. The children have especially liked the Design and Techology lessons as they got to spend time exploring books with moving parts, weaving and making their own sliders.



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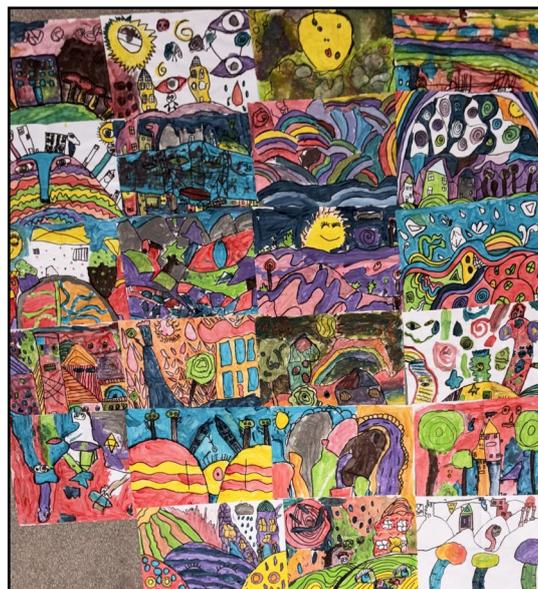
Ravens Class

Dr Jack Matthews and Hayley Rock dived into the subject of rocks and geology! We are so lucky that as a school we are positioned within the Charnwood Forest Geopark. Some of the earliest ever living things were found just a stones throw from school. Dr Jack even donated a replica of the ancient life form, the Charnia. This was found, fossilised, by a child, not much older than the ravens in the 1950's. The Charnia dates back to 560 million years ago, long before even dinosaurs roamed the Earth. Dr Jack also identified the children's rocks they'd brought in from home and was blown away by the children's knowledge on the subject! I think we certainly have some future scientists in class.



Red Kite Class

The children have settled into the new school year wonderfully and are already working hard across all subjects. In Maths, they have successfully completed their unit on place value, showing great determination and focus. In Art, they have been inspired by the unique techniques of Friedensreich Hundertwasser, creating some vibrant and imaginative pieces. Science has been full of fun and curiosity, with the children enjoying memorable experiments to deepen their understanding. They have also been developing their skills in formal letter writing, and in Reading we have begun exploring our new book, Shackleton's Journey, which has already sparked lots of excitement and discussion. It has been a fantastic start to the year, and we are excited to see all of the learning and achievements still to come.



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Amazing After School Club

Amazing After School Club have been super active this week enjoying a dodge ball tournament and practiced our tennis skills. We have also entered our third national afterschool competition "food friends" showing our fabulous imagination and art skills in bringing food to life. Fingers crossed we get our entries published again.



10 @ 10

Wednesday 24th September was National fitness day and 10@10 was a great success! It was the first outing for our new young sports leaders, who helped give out raffle tickets and also lead some of the exercises!

A special thank you to Mr Smith for helping to organise the event.

Bulb Planting

On Thursday 25th September all the children had the chance to plant a bulb in memory of Mrs Collins. Yvonne loved nature and her garden was her happy place, so we feel the children have truly honoured her memory. Reverend Matthew also joined us to say a few words and a prayer.



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Data Snapshot

We know that school is more than data scores, but to ensure that our pupils are ready for the next stage of their education, pupils take part in external assessments throughout their time at Richard Hill.

Here is a snapshot of the data from the end of 2025.

This information, together with ongoing internal monitoring and external reviews, feeds into our school priorities for the coming year. These will be shared with you in the October newsletter.

Assessments	School Data 2025	National
Foundation Stage Profile GLD	87.5%	68.3%
Year 1 Phonics	85.7%	79.9%
Multiplication Check	55.6% scored 25/25	34% scored 25/25
Key Stage 2 Reading EXS standard +	75%	75%
Key Stage 2 Writing EXS standard +	81.3%	72.3%
Key Stage 2 Maths EXS standard +	66.8%	74.1%
Key Stage 2 GaPS EXS standard +	75%	72.6%
Key Stage 2 Above GaPS EXS	81.3%	70.8%

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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:

96.4%



**If you need any support with attendance,
please contact the school.**

We are here to help!

Open Morning

On Wednesday 24th September we welcomed lots of prospective parents for an open morning. This was a great chance for them to have a tour of the school and see all the wonderful work that goes on and the fantastic children working hard. They also had a chance to look at books and ask questions.



OPEN MORNING: 24TH SEPTEMBER

For ages 3-11



Richard Hill CE Primary School
Anstey Lane, Thurcaston, 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.



Learn-AT
Learning - Fellowship

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



Good
Provider

Applications



SCAN ME

If your child is starting Foundation in August 2026, applications must be submitted through Leicestershire County Council by:
Tuesday 14th January 2026

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.

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.



Admissions Update: Foundation and Secondary School Places

Mid-term admissions are processed via LearnAt, but **first-time admissions** for both Foundation Stage and Secondary School must be completed through the Leicestershire County Council website:

Secondary School Admissions

We encourage all parents to visit local secondary schools. Flyers with open event details should already be with you.

You can apply for up to five school preferences. Use all five options—there's no guarantee your first choice will be allocated.

Deadline for applications: 31st October 2025

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

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



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



All Saints Church



HARVEST

Service



14TH OCTOBER

9.30am

PLEASE COME AND
JOIN US
ALL ARE WELCOME!



SCHOLASTIC

TRAVELLING BOOKS

FREE BOOKS

for your school
when you buy at
the Book Fair!

Come to our

BOOK FAIR

A pop-up book-store
with hundreds of
books from
JUST £2.99

What are you
waiting for?

Come find us
at your
Book Fair!

TIME:

3.15-3.45pm

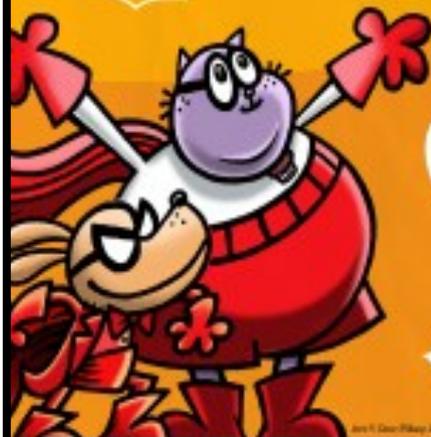
DATE:

9th - 14th October

LOCATION:

School Hall

Find these
characters and
EVEN MORE
BOOKS online



Illustrations by Bookworm Illustrations Ltd

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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



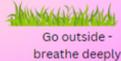
Talk to someone - a friend or an adult



Put your worry in the worry monster



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

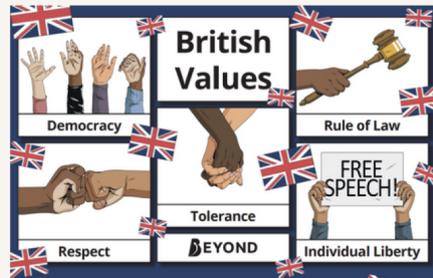
SHOW THEM YOUR BEST
Show the adult that you know speaking to them is important by sitting smartly and showing best behaviour.

MAKE 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.

ALWAYS USE YOUR BOOK
The adult wants to know about your learning make sure you show them your books!

REMEMBER TO ASK
If you are not sure of what a question means speak up.

THINK!
The adults want to hear your thoughts not just your friends. Use your brain and share YOUR ideas not someone else's!



Thank you for visiting us!



School
Website



Getting
Ready for
School

