

Leeming RAF Primary School

Newsletter



September 2017

Dear All,

Well, a new year has begun and it's lovely to welcome you all (back!) to Leeming. A particular welcome to all our new parents and children, both those starting in Reception, and those new to the school in other years. I do hope everyone has had a great summer with your families – enjoying some quality time with the children and a bit of sunshine too!

It's been great to wander the corridors this week and catch up with the pupils – they've certainly come back full of tales from the summer. The school is wonderfully settled, it's hard to believe we've only just started back after 6 weeks off – I've been so impressed with the way in which the children have come back ready for learning and for all that the year ahead holds.

A few brief items follow – some are just reminders to those of you familiar with Leeming, but since there are lots on new families, we thought it worth sharing a few of these again.

Start and end of day routines – children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are dropped off by parents / carers directly into the classrooms in a morning, and are picked up there in the afternoons. Doors open from 8:50am. Children in Y3-6 are supervised in the playground from 8:50am, (but parents are welcome to stay), but then line up at 9am and are met by the class teachers before heading into school. Please don't drop your children into their classes directly.

If you wish to speak to a member of staff, there will always be staff on the gate and in the yard in high viz jackets; or, to speak to your child's teacher briefly, please catch them in the classroom (Reception-Y2) or when they meet the children at 9am (Y3-6). If you'd like a longer appointment or chat, please arrange this with the office for after school. We operate an 'open door' policy – *please* do speak with your child's teacher if there are any concerns, we'd much rather hear about things early on than have parents worry and see issues 'grow'.

Please do not bring your children through the school via the main reception; staff have lots of preparation to do first thing before the day starts, and having children/parents in and out of classrooms at this point can be tricky to manage! Thank you. Please also avoid bringing pushchairs / buggies / strollers etc. into the building – they clog up the corridors and we would hate for someone (especially a baby) to be injured in the limited space available.

Please note that the staff car park is not to be used for parents dropping off / collecting children unless disabled access is required: this is a health and safety hazard.

At the end of the day, children being picked up can be collected via the playground from their classes, unless the office has been notified that they can walk home alone, in which case they leave by the main reception door. Please consider carefully the safety implications of your child walking home alone; we do not recommend this except for our oldest pupils.

Food and Snacks – a couple of reminders here: please do not allow children to bring peanut products (including peanut butter sandwiches) to school. We have a number of pupils with severe peanut allergies, so please help us to avoid any incidents. Secondly, a reminder that children are permitted to bring some fruit to eat at playtime; other snacks are not permitted e.g. fruit bars, winders etc. Thank you.

Gold Points – we are introducing a new system to celebrate pupils' work and behaviour this year. Merits have been replaced with Gold Points. Children will collect individual Gold Points on their charts, and will be awarded certificates for collecting 50, 100, 150 etc. points. These will be given out in Thursday 'Golden Assemblies' in which pupils' work will be celebrated.

Gold points will be given out for two main aspects of school life: demonstrating 'Active Learning' and living out the 'School Values' (we care, we respect, we do our best). This should mean that your children can articulate *why* they have been awarded points, deepening their understanding of what high quality learning and behaviour look like.

This means the end of the 'House System' for the children; we will, however, re-form 'house teams' for special events like Sports Days etc. in future. Rather than being House Captains etc., pupils in Y6 will have the opportunity to be appointed as 'Prefects' - outstanding role models for the younger members of our school. In addition, other jobs, such as School Councillors, Digital Leaders, Sports Leaders, CHIPs etc. will remain to provide children with the chance to shine, especially in Y6.

Awards from out of school – we are always really keen to hear of the out of school achievements of the children – be that swimming, dancing, music, drama etc. However, with the slight change of emphasis of the Golden and WOW assemblies, we are making a change to how these are shared. We want pupils to have the time to talk about their achievements at greater length than can take place in assemblies, so they will be given this opportunity in their classes primarily. In some cases, where a teacher feels it would be particularly valuable to share the award more widely, children may be asked to share this with a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) who may then mention this in assembly. However, the norm will be in-class celebrations – providing the opportunity for more discussion and 'valuing' the awards more. Please do continue to share the things your children are doing out of school with us – it's lovely to be so proud of our pupils!

Dress Code – please ensure your children are abiding by the dress code at all times; smart uniform, black shoes etc. We want to start as we mean to go on! If your child wears earrings, these should be small, discrete studs ONLY (no hoops / hanging earrings) which must be removed for PE lessons. Long hair should be tied back, and must be put up / tied back for PE.

Mobile Phones - please refrain from using your mobile phone for anything whilst on school premises – phones obviously have cameras, and images of children must never be taken without consent. As a safeguarding measure, many schools now require phones to be deposited at reception before parents are allowed in; we believe this should not be necessary, provided everyone complies with the 'no phone use on site' rule. Thank you for your understanding in this.

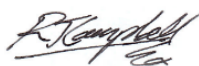
Dates for the Diary:

[See separate list for full term, attached, and in parents' secure area on website (password available from office)]

And Finally...

I've been enjoying hearing all the tales of the summer from the children – my personal favourite thus far: a Star Wars themed Corn Maze! I know where I'm headed this weekend...

Best regards,



Rob Campbell
Headteacher



Diary Dates Autumn Term 2017

September

- 6 Residential Visit - Parents' Meeting 6:00pm
- 11-13 Y5/Y6 Residential Visit to Low Mill, Askrigg
- 12 Y5/Y6 visit to Troller's Ghyll, for pupils not on residential visit
- 13 KS1 Visit to Trincomalee, Hartlepool
- w/c 25 Road Safety Week
- 25 Individual photos – details to follow
- 25 Governors' Meeting – 2:00pm
- 30 Eagles' class assembly, 2:30pm

October

- 2 Phonics Talk for parents of Reception, Y1 and Y2 pupils – 6.00pm
- 5 Bedale High School Open Evening for parents of Y6 pupils – 6.00pm
- 9 Bikeability – details to follow
- 10,11 EYFS Phonics in the classroom, parents' drop-in sessions – details to follow
- 11 Cluster Boys' Football, Y5/6 – details to follow
- 13 Woodpeckers' class assembly, 2:30pm
- 17 Harvest Festival – details to follow
- 18, 19 KS1 Phonics in the classroom, parents' drop-in sessions – details to follow
- 20 Kingfishers' class assembly, 2:30pm
- 20 Break up for half term, 3:15 pm
- 30 Staff Training Day, pupils *not* in school
- 31 Children return to school, 9:00am

November

- 3 Skylarks' class assembly, 2:30pm
- w/c 6 Book Fair in school
- 7, 8 Parent/Teacher Consultations (PTCs) for all classes
- 10 Ripon Cathedral Service – details to follow
- w/c 13 Anti Bullying Week
- 13 KS2 Spelling Drop In
- 14 Pantomime in school, organised by station
- 17 Flu Vaccines YR-4
- 21 Maths morning, parents' drop-in session – details to follow
- 24 Hawks' class assembly, 2:30pm
- 29 Cluster Netball Y5/6 – details to follow

December

- 1 Nightingales class assembly, 2:30pm
- 6 Cluster Open Sports Hall Athletics – details to follow
- 8 Owls' class assembly, 2:30pm
- 12 KS1 Christmas Play 2:00pm
- 13 KS1 Christmas Play 10:00am
- 13 Cluster Key Steps Gymnastics – details to follow
- 14 Reception Nativity 10:00am
- 18 Reception/Y1/Y2 Christmas party
- 19 KS2 Carol Concert 2:30pm
- 20 KS2 Christmas parties
- 21 Christmas lunch
- 22 Carols around the Tree 2:15pm
- 22 School closes for Christmas 3:15pm

January 2017

- 8 Staff training day, pupils *not* in school
- 9 Children return to school 9:00am

The above provides and outline; additional events (e.g. cluster sports etc.) may be added as dates are released.