



FRIDAY FLYER

Friday 4th September 2026



Headteacher Update

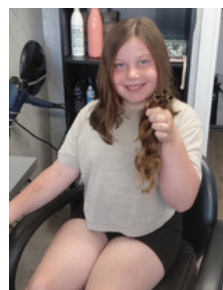
It has been a real pleasure to welcome everyone back to school, even if it has been a shorter week than usual. The children arrived on Wednesday with smiles, a good many tans and six weeks of stories that the children had been saving up to share. The start of a new school year is very much the January 1st of the school calendar, a chance to begin afresh with new goals, new intentions and a time to try something new. Our aim for these first few days has been to ensure that the children feel welcomed back into the school day and into new routines, so we have been delighted by how mature, calm and ready to learn they have been across every year group.

A special mention goes to our very youngest pupils who have taken their first steps into our school family this week and to the children who have joined us in other year groups this September, all of whom have settled in beautifully. For families with older brothers and sisters starting high school this week, please pass on our very best wishes from everyone at Richard Coates.

There are some new faces among the adults too. Mrs Butchart joins us this term, where she will be teaching in classes across school and we welcome Mrs Ogden, who will be with us each Wednesday to teach specialist music to our children in Years 4 to 6, following Mrs Wigham's retirement at the end of last year. Further information about sign up to Mrs Ogden's school choir will follow shortly.

In worship we launched our theme for the term, which is generosity. Like any lesson worth learning it cannot live in words alone, and the story of the Good Samaritan does not finish with a tidy summary but with an instruction to 'go and do the same'. So next week our children are being sent off with a mission of their own. Each year group will be given a golden token with some strict rules: you can't keep it and must only hold it only until you catch someone else being kind, at which point it has to move on. Every class will keep a record of where their token travels and the act behind each handover and we have no idea whose hands they will be in by Friday! The unexpected journey of the tokens will help us to see that generosity is something that isn't planned for, but something that we should always recognise and then pass along.

We have already had a fine example to start us off. Maisie in Year 5 spent part of the summer holidays having ten inches of her hair cut off and donated to The Little Princess Trust, a charity that uses real hair to make wigs for children and young people who have lost their own during treatment or because of other medical conditions. It is a genuinely selfless thing to do and it takes some courage, so very well done Maisie.



This news sets a high bar for the term and we look forward to hearing about many more over the coming weeks, so please do keep telling us about achievements from outside school, particularly anything that shows kindness, respect or perseverance in action.

Staying with that theme, a big thank you to everyone who donated to the St Oswald's Peter Rabbit Art Trail over the summer. As a school we have raised over £500, which is a wonderful total. Many of you will have spent part of the holidays hunting down as many of the sculptures as you could find and we are now lucky enough to be able to order personalised merchandise featuring our very own school sculpture, Let Your Light Shine. Mugs, tote bags, water bottles and art prints are all available and they make a lovely keepsake from the trail as well as another way of supporting St Oswald's Hospice. If you would like to order, you can do so [via this link](#).



Over the coming weeks, we look forward to keeping you updated with our growing list of calendar events for the course of the autumn term via our dates section of the flyer. From all of us at Richard Coates, welcome back and we hope that you enjoy a restful weekend.

James Watson- Headteacher



ATTENDANCE

Attendance for this week is summarised below

Attendance: Two Short Films for Parents

The Department for Education has produced a set of one minute animations for parents, and two are particularly worth a look at this time of year. [Starting Primary School and Supporting Your Child's Attendance](#) explains how attendance works at primary school and is aimed at families whose child has just started Reception. [Why Attending Every Day Matters](#) looks at what children gain socially as well as academically from being in every day and is applicable to all children in primary schools. Both films take approximately one minute to watch and offer some thoughtful points.



If you experience any difficulties with your child attending school, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Fargher or Mr Watson to look at how we can help to support your child further.

SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING

Updates of the Week

Supporting Young Carers & Hidden Responsibilities

At school, safeguarding is as much about proactive support as it is about protection. Many pupils carry hidden responsibilities at home as young carers, including helping look after a sibling, parent, or family member with an illness, disability or mental health challenge. These extra duties can sometimes impact a child's attendance, schoolwork or emotional wellbeing if not well supported.

To help raise awareness, we are delighted to welcome Karen from Northumberland County Council's Young Carers' Programme, who will be speaking to the children in next week's Friday worship. We want to ensure no young carer feels alone; if you think your child might be taking on a caring role at home, please reach out to our Designated Safeguarding Team for practical support. You can also explore guidance and resources via the [NSPCC Young Carers Support Guide](#).



Understanding Risk with Online Group Chats

WhatsApp is one of the most popular ways for young people to stay in touch but large class group chats can lead to unwanted contact and privacy concerns. Using device parental controls alongside WhatsApp family tools allows you to set up linked accounts to stay involved. Adjusting app settings to change group permissions from *Everyone* to *My Contacts* stops strangers or mutual group members using the *Add Anyone* feature to put your child into unfamiliar chats.

To walk you through securing your child's phone, Internet Matters provides a clear step by step setup guide for parents. It details how to link accounts, configure account privacy settings and block unwanted users so you can build safe messaging habits together. The guide [can be accessed via this link](#).





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Nursery

What a fabulous first week in Nursery! We have explored new environments, made lots of new friends, and really come together as a team. Our teachers have been so proud of us as we have embarked on our new journey to school!

We have enjoyed reading lots of stories, *Shark in the Park* by our champion author Nick Sharratt is quickly becoming a class favourite! We also practised some mindfulness activities, like finger tracing and dancing, to help us transition through our day. Well done for making such a fantastic start to Nursery, everyone!



Reception

We have all had a brilliant first week in Reception! The children have settled in well and have been busy exploring our learning environments. They have been kind friends to each other, by sharing and helping each other when working, and we have been coming together as a class for carpet time. We talked about how our class is like a family and we are one big team!

We have read, 'The Colour Monster' story, and talked about our feelings when coming to school. Well done everyone on a fantastic first week.





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 1

Birch Class has had a fantastic week settling into their new Key Stage 1 routines, impressing everyone with their positive attitudes, teamwork and kindness. They have loved diving into their new story, 'The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig', as well as visiting the school library to pick out new books

In maths, the children have been busy practicing their counting and sorting various objects by shape, colour and size, whilst also creating some truly fantastic work during their discovery time. We are so proud of the children for making such a wonderful start to Year 1. Well done Birch Class!



Year 2

We have had a great week in Beech class. The children have started with a positive attitude, demonstrating determination and resilience. We have enjoyed starting our new text in English 'The Bob Baby' and we have had some discussions about this in our classroom, making predictions.

We have been working very hard to learn new classroom routines and getting used to our new environment! We have been discussing the importance of good listening and how we can take care of the classroom for the enjoyment of everyone. The children have had some brilliant ideas.

We enjoyed our first visit to the library and chose our new page-turners. It was great chance to read alongside friends and relax during the busy week.





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 3

We have had a terrific start to Year 3. The children have all arrived with positive attitudes and big smiles for their first week back. We have enjoyed sharing and listening to the memories of the summer holidays.

During the three days, we have been discussing the importance of our school values and how to demonstrate these within school life, with some excellent ideas being shared. We have started to learn about The Stone Age, how people lived then and how day-to-day life differed from our own. There has already been a lot of enthusiasm and curiosity and we can't wait to learn more! We have also enjoyed being creative when creating clay self portraits. In maths, we have been consolidating numbers to 100.

Well done on a fabulous first week back Year 3. It has been wonderful to see you all 'Let your Light Shine'.

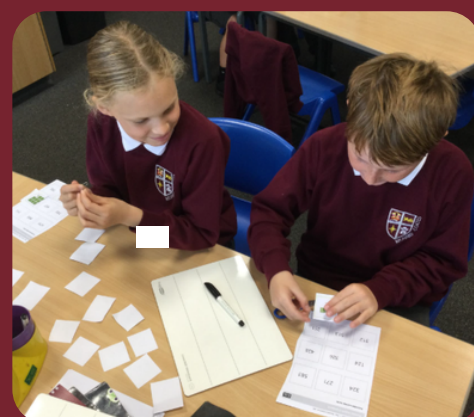


Year 4

What a superb first week we have had in Year 4! It all started with the chance to begin our practical lessons learning the recorder in music. Pupils listened brilliantly and showed a real interest in building upon their composition skills.

This positive attitude continued in all of our lessons. We enjoyed exploring the manipulatives in maths to understand place value and letting our imaginations run wild to help us in create incredible (and tasty) enchanted forests.

The children have also had lots of discussions using our oracy skills about how we can show our school motto, "Let your light shine," and how we can demonstrate our school values of kindness, care and respect in our lives. Well done on a brilliant start Year 4!





YEAR GROUP NEWS

Take a look at this week's learning

Year 5

Year 5 have made a fantastic start to their first week back at school! The children have returned with a positive attitude, showing enthusiasm and excitement as they begin their learning journey. In music, they have enjoyed getting practical and creative, using keyboards for the first time and beginning to compose their own pieces of music.

In English, we have started exploring the narrative poem, 'The Highwayman', developing our understanding of the poem and its characters. In maths, the children have really embraced our work on place value, exploring numbers up to 10,000 and even investigating Roman numerals. It has been wonderful to see the children engaging so positively with their learning and demonstrating a real determination to learn, achieve and make the most of their time in Year 5.



Year 6

Year 6 have come into school brilliantly this week. The children are showing a very mature attitude to being the eldest children in the school and have been determined to start off their class work with the best attitude. We began to read our English novel 'Gaslight' and used oracy tactics to discuss predictions about the story.

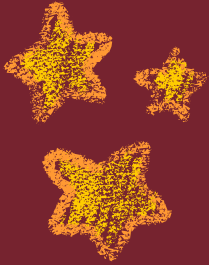
We have looked at world views in RE and how our experiences shape the way we view things in the world, but being aware that we need to be respectful and have open minds when people have different opinions. We have also had our first music and PE lessons of the year, where the children enjoyed playing small team rugby skills-based games. We are so proud of the start Year 6 has made and look forward to them excelling in every respect this year!



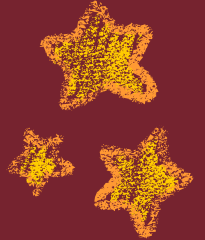


HAPPY *Birthday*

Congratulations to all of the children who will be celebrating a birthday in the upcoming week! We wish you a wonderful time with your friends and family.



Happy Birthday to:



Teddy (Nursery)

Noah (Reception)

Mikey (Year 3)

Finn (Year 5)

Freddie (Year 5)

Joseph (Year 5)

Dollie (Year 6)

Jasper (Year 6)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2026/2027

Date	Event
Monday 7th September	Year 6 Sign and Sing group to visit Grange Lea Care Home
Monday 14th September	Year 6 Sign and Sing group to visit Grange Lea Care Home
Tuesday 15th September	Year 5 British Sign Language sessions
Wednesday 16th September	Adam Bushnell author visit to school
Thursday 17th September	Vision screening check for children in Reception- Details to follow
Friday 18th September	NHS Flu Immunisation Visit - Reception to Year 6
Week beginning Monday 12th October	Parents of Nursery and Reception invited to join us in school for open days- Further information and bookings will be shared via Tapestry Parents' evening meetings- Year group dates and booking form to be shared via parent letter Children begin paired reading initiative with buddies from classes across school
Monday 19th October	Key Stage 1 Harvest Festival performance- 9.15am- Booking details to follow Early Years Harvest Festival performance- 2.40pm. Booking details to follow.
Wednesday 21st October	Key Stage 2 Harvest Festival performance- 9.15am- Booking details to follow.
Friday 23rd October	School closed- Teacher training day

