

12th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year. I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas break.

Parent Survey

Thank you to all parents who completed the parental questionnaire. We wanted to get feedback from parents about a number of areas and the feedback will be useful to help inform us of aspects of our work that we can develop further.

Overall the feedback was very positive with the following results:

- 90% of parents say their child is happy at the school.
- 96% of parents say their son feels safe at school.
- Less than 2% of parents say their child had been bullied and it was not dealt with by the school.
- 94% of parents agree that their child has the opportunity to take part in clubs and extra-curricular activities in school.
- 92% of parents agree that their child does well at school and that behaviour is good in school.
- 87% of parents say that when they have raised issues that these have been dealt with.
- 87% of parents say that the school has high expectations.
- 88% of parents who completed the questionnaire said they would recommend the school.

An area of the survey that parents have asked for more information on is around what their child studies. This information is all available on the school website under our curriculum overviews. <https://www.richardhale.herts.sch.uk/learning/curriculum/> On this page there are curriculum overviews for every year group and subject. This information will help you see what your child is learning in each of those subject areas over the course of the year. These should be a useful source of information for you and we will continue to look at ways we can keep you informed about the programmes of study the students are engaged with.

Thank you to parents who took the time to provide comments as well. These again have been really useful for us to look at what areas we can develop further. There were no consistent themes through the comments, but we will look at the feedback and utilise this in informing how we can continue to improve.

One area that received a couple of comments was about communication, can I remind parents that all staff email addresses are on the school website <https://www.richardhale.herts.sch.uk/about-us/staff/> This can be accessed via the About Us tab, Our School Community, staff.

If you email the school, you should receive a response within 48 hours, this may be a confirmation that your email has been received and that it is being looked into. If you do not receive any response within 48 hours, please email head@richardhale.co.uk and I will follow this up for you, please include your original email in the communication for reference.

Thank you again to everyone who took the time to complete the questionnaire, the feedback has been very useful and we look forward to building on this in the future.

Burns Night

The PA are hosting the Burns Night celebration on Saturday 28th January 2023. Tickets are now available to purchase at £45 each via the PA email, parentassoc@richardhale.co.uk. This is a black tie event, comprising of a three course meal, including haggis, followed by dancing in the Main Hall with a professional caller and the school band.

Vacancies

We have the following support staff vacancies, for more information on each of the roles please use this link <https://www.richardhale.herts.sch.uk/vacancies/>

Art Technician
Teaching Assist
Chemistry Technician

Winter Health Update on behalf of Public Health

Winter health update - January 2023

For parents/carers and education and childcare settings

From Geraldine Bruce, Head of Health Protection, Hertfordshire Public Health

As children return to schools and childcare settings, we expect to see many more cases of flu, COVID-19 and other infections that affect children's breathing (known as 'respiratory infections'). There also continue to be high numbers of scarlet fever cases, which can spread quickly, but can be easily treated with antibiotics. To help us through this term, this leaflet has five simple steps we can take to protect children, minimise the spread of illness in schools and childcare settings and protect others.

1. Stay home if unwell

Infections can spread quickly in schools and other childcare settings. If your child is unwell and has a fever they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and their fever has gone. Adults should try to stay home when unwell and consider wearing a face covering to protect others if you do have to go out. Don't visit people in hospitals or care homes if you have a fever, a cold or symptoms of a stomach upset.

2. Keep hands clean

It is important to help children understand that keeping hands clean can stop bugs from spreading. Help your child wash their hands regularly at home with soap and warm water.

3. Catch coughs and sneezes

Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is a simple way to help stop illness from spreading. Keeping rooms well ventilated will also help prevent the spread of winter illness.

4. Get vaccinated if you're eligible

Now is a good time to check you and your family's vaccinations are all up to date. If you are unsure your child has had all their routine vaccinations, you can check their personal health record (Red Book) or ask your GP. You can also check the childhood immunisation

schedule online. And it's not too late to get the free NHS flu jab or nasal spray this year if anyone in your family is eligible. The NHS will be contacting parents of children who have not yet had their flu immunisation. Flu nasal spray clinics are still taking place in some schools this month, or for children aged 2-3, please contact your GP to arrange an appointment.

5. Be scarlet fever aware

Call your GP for advice if you think your child has scarlet fever. More information about scarlet fever can be found on the NHS website. If you are concerned about a rash that your child has, advice is available here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/rashes-babies-and-children/>

Further updates and resources can be found here:

www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk

www.gov.uk/government/news/back-to-school-advice-issued-amid-high-levels-of-flu-covid-19-and-scarlet-fever

www.e-bug.eu

www.gov.uk/government/publications/infectious-diseases-schools-and-other-childcare-settings

Ian Hawkins

Headteacher

January 2023 Calendar

Monday 16 th	Year 13 Mock Exams week Year 11 MFL Mock Speaking Exams week
Friday 27 th	Holocaust Memorial Day
Saturday 28 th	Burns Night

February 2023 Calendar

Wednesday 1 st	Intermediate Maths Challenge School Production
Thursday 2 nd	School Production
Friday 3 rd	Physics trip to Belgium to 5 th
Tuesday 7 th	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Friday 10 th	Non Uniform Day School finishes at 12.30 Junior Ski Trip to Italy, returns 18 th Senior Ski Trip to Austria, returns 18 th
Monday 20th	Inset Day – School Closed
Thursday 23 rd	Year 13 Parents' Evening
Monday 27 th	Year 9 Immunisations Year 11 MFL mock writing exams
Tuesday 28 th	Year 11 MFL mock writing exams

Weeks

Monday 16 th Jan	Week 1
Monday 23 rd Jan	Week 2
Monday 30 th Jan	Week 1
Monday 6 th Feb	Week 2
Monday 13 th Feb	Half Term Week
Tuesday 21 st Feb	Week 1
Monday 27 th Feb	Week 2

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