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**Executive Headteacher – Mrs P Atwal**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

It is astonishing to have so quickly arrived at the end of the first half term of the school year – it has simply whizzed by! We have, as always, been extremely busy.

**Reception children:**

It has been wonderful to welcome our new reception children, who have already become well-established in our school and have settled into the Richardson routines fantastically well. They have made a great start to their school life and we are very proud of them. Our year 6 children have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them better as 'buddies' and we look forward to seeing these positive relationships blossom over the coming months.



**Harvest Festival:**

Thank you for your generous donations to our Harvest food collection for The Salvation Army food bank. It was great to see our community come together and show gratitude and thanks for the bounty of Harvest and to share with those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you to Mr Slaney, Mrs Drury and our wonderful Year 5 children who put on a super Harvest assembly and led the school community so well in our celebration and thanks. We were joined on the morning by many of the Year 5 parents, and by our local priest, Kate Plant.



**Wear it Yellow:**

We had a super time thinking about the message of the Young Minds 'Wear it Yellow' campaign for mental health week. Children in all classes thought carefully about the ways in which they can keep themselves healthy in mind and body and discussed this with their teachers and peers. Thank you for your support in raising money for the Young Minds charity.

### **Sports events:**

Richardson Endowed have participated in several sporting competitions in athletics since September, which have been lovely to see. Well done to all our sports superstars in KS1 and KS2.



### **Embark Choir at Repton:**

Some of our wonderful Year 5 and Year 6 children have participated in a fantastic concert at Repton theatre in October, performing with West End stars to a packed house. Once again, our children shone brightly as part of the Embark Choir and we are so proud of them all. They have also performed at the Embark Awards and have been asked to perform at some Christmas events also – well done everyone!

### **Embark Awards evening:**

Our annual Embark Awards evening was very successful on Wednesday this week. Our nominees made our school so very proud and won awards for a wide range of reasons. Thank you to the families and the children who attended and helped to make the evening so special. Children received awards for: outstanding contribution to family at school or home, always showing integrity in everything they do, demonstrating fantastic teamwork and acknowledgement of great success of achievement. There was also a special recognition award.



A huge thank you to the Embark Choir who sang at the awards and congratulations to our winners this year: Vinnie, Amber, Ruby, Maddie, Jacob, Moira and Josh.

### **Parents' evenings:**

It was great to see so many of you all at the parents' evenings this week. Thank you for your positive feedback. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to discuss your child's progress at any time.

### **The Royal British Legion Poppy Sale**

We will be selling poppies from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 to support the Poppy Appeal. Please help by bringing in a donation of your choice. There will also be a range of accessories sold, for a minimum donation of £1 – the accessories include rubber wristbands and reflector poppies. The sale will take place at break time in the lodge to raise money for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Please ensure your child has the correct money.

### **Pumpkins:**

Thank you to all of the children who brought a pumpkin or pumpkin inspired piece of art into school this Wednesday. The top playground looked fantastic decorated with all of the children's brilliant creations! It was great to see lots of different and creative ideas and it was a tough job to pick a KS1 and KS2 winner. Congratulations to Ellodie in Class 1 and Oscar in Class 3.



### **New starters for 2026 – dates for tours in school:**

It is that time of year again when applications for school places will soon be open for 2026. If you know anyone who is looking for a space for their child for reception starting in September 2026, please do forward these dates to them. They will need to book onto one of the available sessions via the school office.

#### **Open days for new parents:**

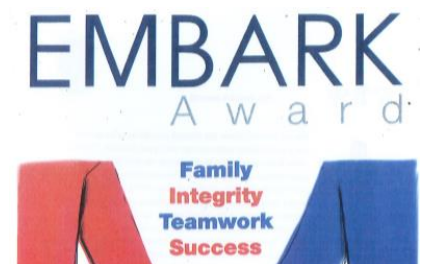
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 1.30pm and 3.45pm
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 5.00pm

### **Homework projects:**

A reminder that homework projects for this half term are being displayed on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November** after school in the school hall. We look forward to seeing your child's creation and celebrating these with you after half term.

### **Embark Award folders:**

Don't forget to complete some more Embark Awards over half term – it is the perfect opportunity to complete one of the 100 things to do before our children leave primary school. Please send your child's folder into school along with photos or other evidence of the completion of awards. Our team will then update and assess the folders to see when your child qualifies for a silver, bronze or gold award which will be presented by our trust leader, Matt Crawford.



Reception parents: your child's folder was given out yesterday (Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025).

### **School SENDCo:**

We are expecting our wonderful SENDCo, Miss Goodwin, to return to school on a phased part-time basis after half-term. I am sure you will join me in welcoming her back.

## Miss Lewis

Sadly, Miss Lewis will be leaving us on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 for a promotion, which starts in January 2026. I am in the process of finalising arrangements for a new class teacher for our reception class who will start with us straight after Christmas. The details for this will be shared as soon as I am able to complete the process. Please rest assured that our primary priority is the children's learning and that there will be a smooth transition between teachers. The rest of the reception team (Miss Evans, Mrs Walters and Mrs Gregory) will remain with the class to provide consistency for the children.

I am sure you will join me in wishing Miss Lewis all the best in her new adventures and thank her for her hard work and dedication over the last 16 years at Richardson. Miss Lewis will be greatly missed.

Kind regards,

Mrs P Atwal  
Executive Headteacher

## Key dates:

<b>Half Term</b>	<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>
Road Safety Talk (Year 1)	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November
Homework Project Evening	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November: 3.30pm → 4.00pm
INSET Day	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November
School Trip (Year 3)	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November
Remembrance Service (Year 6)	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November: 10.30am start
Children in Need	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November
Autumn Term - Assessment Week	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> November → Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November
School Trip (Year 6)	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November
Non-uniform Day (PTFA)	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November
Nativity Performances (Reception and Year 1)	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December: 2.00pm Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December: 9.30am
Christmas Assembly (Year 2)	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December: 10.00am → 10.20am
Christmas/Winter Disco (PTFA)	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December Key Stage 1: 3.30pm → 4.15pm Key Stage 2: 4.30pm → 5.30pm
Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children)	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Craft Day	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>SMALLEY CHURCH</b> – Christmas Tree Festival	Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> December: 10.30am → 3.00pm
Christmas Carols (Year 3 to Year 6) Christmas Fayre (PTFA)	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December: Times to be confirmed All welcome
Smalley Church Visit (Year 1 / Year 2 / Year 5 / Year 6)	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December
Smalley Church Visit (Year 3 / Year 4)	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Dinner and Party Day	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December
Last Day of Term	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Christmas Holidays</b>	<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>
First Day of Spring Term (Pupils Return to School)	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026