



Friday Flyer



WELCOME
BACK

Weekly Update

RAPS daycare: Breakfast Club from 7.45am-8:45am & After School Club from 3:30pm-5:15pm

Monday 27 April

RAPS PE kit to be worn to school by Y4 & Y5

Forest school for nursery

Tuesday 28 April

RAPS PE kit to be worn to school by Y3
Shildon Locomotion Museum visit for Y2

Wednesday 29 April

RAPS PE kit to be worn by everyone please for our Cricket Day
Walk wise for 1CW
Swimming for 6C

Thursday 30 April

RAPS PE kit to be worn to school by Y6
Learn to Ride for Y4

Friday 1 May

RAPS PE kit to be worn to school by Y2
Swimming for 3B
Swimming for 4Gr

Future dates for your diary


Mon 4 May - School closed for May Day

Mon 11 May - SATs week begins for Y6

Thurs 21 May - assembly for families of reception from 9:05am

A message from our Head Teacher

Dear Richard Avenue Families,
Welcome back to the summer term. We hope that you have enjoyed a lovely break with your children in the sunny weather, which was bright if not warm. We've enjoyed a busy first week of the summer term with forest school for nursery, cricket coaching for Yrs 1&5, cycling for Y4 and Walkwise for 1CW - practice at safe road crossing and road safety awareness.

As we look forward to (and hope for ) warm and sunny days, could we please remind you about sending the children into school each day with their water bottle as well as a lightweight, waterproof jacket - we all know how unpredictable the NE summer can be! On that cheery note, have a lovely weekend.

With very best wishes,

Claire McKinney.

Miss McKinney and all of the staff at Richard Avenue Primary School



Reception 2026 places. Offers for reception places in September 2026 were sent out last week. If you applied online, you will be able to log into the Family Portal to see your child's place. If you completed a paper application, you will receive a letter by post. If you have not yet submitted an application, please apply as soon as possible. If we can support you with this process, please do not hesitate to speak to one of the office team who will do all they can to help you.

2026

Mr Spoor's was delighted with his Holiday Sports Camp which was enjoyed by a large number of children. Huge thanks to our wonderful Mr Spoor's whose attention to detail, care and enthusiasm made sure the sports camp was a great success

#thankyoutourwonderfulmrspoors

THANK YOU

Join us for government funded



Breakfast



Available everyday:
weetabix, cornflakes or rice krispies and toast with butter or butter and jam.

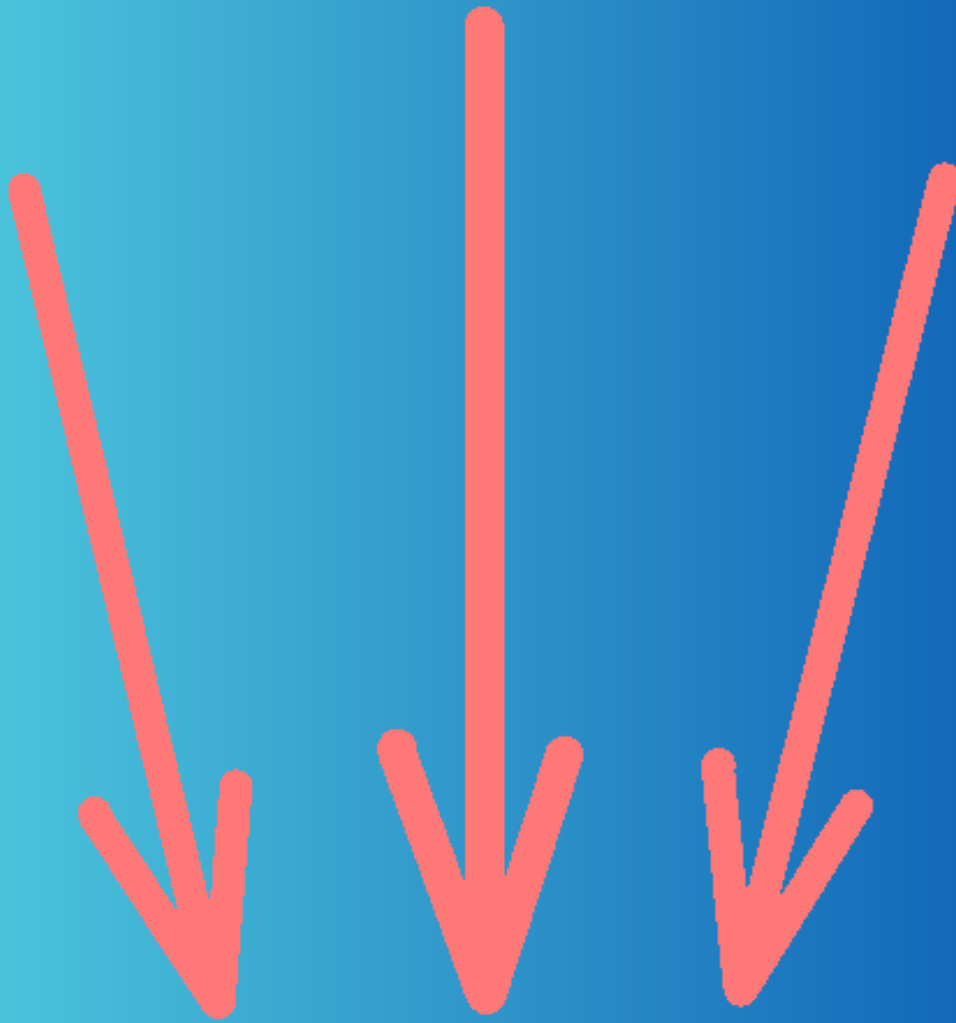
Daily hot options:
Monday: beans on toast
Tuesday: crumpets
Wednesday: omelette with hash browns
Thursday: beans on toast
Friday: omelette with hash browns

NO BOOKING

REQUIRED!

If you would like your child to join us, they must arrive between 8.25 and 8.40am, coming into school via the small gate...children from rec - Y6 welcome!





Safeguarding Update: New Allergy Safety Standards (Sept 2026)

New mandatory national standards (**Benedict's Law**) are coming into effect in September 2026 to improve allergy safety in schools. These will require all schools to stock spare adrenaline pens (AAIs) and provide compulsory allergy training for all staff.

This is an useful opportunity to educate and empower children at home appropriately as they grow. Primary school is a vital window for children to move from passive care to active independence. By involving your child through teaching them about allergens we can help support children with or without allergies as they grow.

For practical advice on how to educate your child at each stage of primary school, we encourage all parents to review the **Allergy UK Parent Pathways**:

👉 [Allergy UK: Parent Information & Pathways \(Ages 5-11\)](#)



Sunderland Foodbank. On behalf of Sunderland Foodbank, our team would like to say a huge thank you to both students and families at Richard Avenue for your kind donations. Last term, as a result of your generosity, the Foodbank were able to provide a total of **238 meals** to those in need.



Pupil Attendance Policy



Person Responsible for Policy:
Claire McKinney (Head Teacher)

Date of Adoption by Governing Body:
Spring 2026

Date of next review:
Spring 2029

Absence can be authorised if:

- The pupil is absent with leave (defined as leave granted by any person authorised to do so by the Governing Body or Head Teacher)
- The pupil was ill 'or prevented from attending by any unavoidable cause'
- The school at which the child is a registered pupil is not within distance of the child's home and no suitable arrangements have been made by the LA for any of the following:
 1. the child's transport to and from school
 2. boarding accommodation for the child at or near the school
 3. enabling the child to become a registered pupil at a school nearer to his/her home
- The pupil is the child of Traveller parents and the conditions as stated in the Education Act 1996, Section 444(6) are met

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- There is a family bereavement
- The pupil is attending a Pupil Referral unit
- The pupil is involved in an exceptional special occasion (i.e. if a pupil is attending an older sibling's graduation)
- Leave of absence cannot be granted for holiday purposes. It may be granted for other reasons under exceptional circumstances.

Absence should be unauthorised if:

- No explanation is forthcoming (and staff have done their best to find out a reason).
- The school is dissatisfied with the explanation.
- The pupil stays at home to mind the house or look after younger siblings (the guidance suggests that absence in such cases should only be granted in exceptional circumstances).
- The pupil is shopping during school hours.
- The pupil is absent for unexceptional special occasions (e.g. birthdays).
- The pupil is on a family holiday without permission.

We have updated our Pupil Attendance Policy and provided a summary of the main change which involves the issuing of fines for persistent absence. This is not a step we want to take at all, and we hope it will be available to school but remain unused. We want to work with our families to ensure all of the children attend everyday. If ever you have concerns about attendance, please speak to Miss McKinney or Miss Ellis.

Issuing of fines

A non-attendance fine of £80 (if paid within 21 days) or £160 (within 28 days) per parent, per child will be issued in the following circumstances:

- Where the absence is not isolated and/or there are extended absences in more than one academic year.
- Where a child is absent for 5 days (10 sessions) of consecutive unauthorised absence and/or 10 non-consecutive unauthorised absences within a 10-week period.
- For unauthorised absence and/or 10 non-consecutive unauthorised absences within a 10-week period, children will be placed on a 4 week Attendance Plan followed by a 6 week

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Support Plan to enable and encourage a change in pattern of attendance

- Fines are capped at two per parent in a three-year period, with further offences leading to potential prosecution, court fines up to £2,500, or a parenting order

Key details on school absence fines

- A penalty notice is considered when a child misses 10 or more sessions (5 days) of unauthorised, consecutive, or non-consecutive absence within a 10-school-week period
- The fine is £80 if paid within 21 days, rising to £160 if paid within 28 days

Per-parent, per-child:

Fines apply to each parent/carer for each child, meaning a family with two children could face significant, multiple fines.

Fitness equipment. The children **must not** use the school fitness equipment or the MUGA at pick-up time. Please could we ask you to ensure children do not access either of these areas. Both must be fully supervised by school adults only. Thank you.

Accessing school. Please do not access school via the main carpark gate. There was a near miss just yesterday when a parent with children used the closing carpark gate, and just managed to squeeze through before it closed. There is a pedestrian gate to the side of the carpark gate. Please, please use it!



Uniform reminders for the new term. We would be grateful if parents and carers could ensure that all items of uniform are named, particularly sweatshirts and cardigans as these are often removed in the summer months.

What will your child be learning this term? Curriculum information webs will again be sent out on Seesaw early next week, giving a summary of learning and topics to be covered in Years 1-6 during the term. We hope you will find them useful. Please visit our school website where you will also find them. Why not then ask your children some of the key questions?



On the subject of 'summer uniform', please would you also ensure that your child has a named sun hat and that you apply suncream before children come into school, so that they are protected in the hot weather.

Finally on the above theme, we try to keep our uniform expectations as simple as possible so that all the children are smart, safe and comfortable. Please remember...no canvas or baseball style shoes; trousers, skirts or shorts should be grey or black. Earrings and nail varnish are not permitted. Many thanks for your continued support.

ALL CHILDREN ALSO NEED A FILLED (WITH WATER!) WATER BOTTLE WITH THEM EVERYDAY. THIS IS SO IMPORTANT AS WE KNOW FAMILIES KNOW.



**citizens
advice**




IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

**Just this week some benefits have changed
A quick benefit check can be arranged
Just to make sure your payment is correct
Takes 10 short minutes for us to check**

**Scan our QR code and self refer
Or e-mail Marie, her address is there
Confidential, quick and free to do
Please get it touch, we want to help you**

marie.blythe@citizensadvicesunderland.co.uk





NCD TRAINING & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT **NE** North East Combined Authority **SBIC**

STEP INTO TEACHING WITH NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Level 1 Award: Preparing to Work in Schools
 Start your journey into the education sector with this introductory qualification designed to build your confidence and knowledge.
 This course will help you:

- Understand the teaching and learning environment within a school
- Learn how to support the wellbeing and development of children and young people
- Gain insight into key roles and responsibilities in an education setting
- Prepare for further study and training in the sector

On successful completion, learners can progress to:






Level 2 Award: Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent
 This next step will:

- Increase your knowledge of safeguarding responsibilities
- Develop your understanding of the Prevent Duty
- Raise awareness of online safety risks
- Strengthen your understanding of duty of care within education settings

Dates:
 Enrolment session will take place on the 23rd April 10.00am – 1.00pm & the course will run on the 30th April, 7th, 14th and 21st May and 2nd, 4th, 11th and 18th June from 9.30am – 2.30pm

Venue:
 Sunderland Bangladesh Centre, 30 Tatham Street, Hendon, Sunderland, SR1 2QD

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 Limited spaces available — first come, first served!
 Don't miss your chance to gain valuable skills and
 kickstart your career.**

Drop me a message today and take the first step!

Start Your Journey in Education!

FREE PARENT AND CARER BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Dear Richard Avenue Families,

We are hosting a free behaviour workshop aimed at supporting families, and we would love for you to benefit from this opportunity.

The workshop will take place on 11th May at Grace House, Sunderland from 09:30-11:30.

Please note that spaces are limited, so early booking is encouraged.

Parents and carers can reserve their free tickets using the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/making-sense-of-the-behaviour-tickets-1984465899927aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

If you need any additional information or materials, please get in touch with me.

**Thank you,
Lyndsey
MIS**



Attendance

OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to our **afternoon nursery** who are our weekly top attenders. Weekly whole school attendance is 93.90 %

CLASS	ATTENDANCE %	CLASS	ATTENDANCE %
NURSERY MORN	85.0	3B	98.5
NURSERY AFT	99.0	3M	93.2
RJ	95.3	4GO	92.5
RS	89.7	4GR	91.0
1CW	99.1	5O	95.8
1W	93.3	5W	98.3
2S	97.2	6C	94.8
2W	97.6	6H	94.3



SAFETY ON THE ROAD

Traffic-related incidents are a significant risk for young pedestrians and cyclists, so understanding road safety is crucial for children's wellbeing. While all road users share responsibility for keeping one another safe, this guide offers strategies for empowering young people to navigate the roads confidently and responsibly.

1 TAKE PRACTICE JOURNEYS

Making 'practice' journeys with children is a great way to help them stay safe, thereby modelling responsible behaviours and having road safety conversations as they prepare to travel independently. Add hazard perception activities like spotting electric vehicles – which may have a green number plate – and point out how quiet they are. Children learn by watching others; remind them that their peers might not always be the best role models.

2 BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN

Visibility is lower during darker winter days, and drivers need to take extra care to look out for pedestrians. Wearing bright and reflective clothing can help make children more visible to drivers near roads. In poor daylight conditions, encourage children to wear light, bright or fluorescent clothing. When it's dark, wear reflective clothing or materials such as a reflective armband or jacket.

3 EYES UP

Encourage children to look up and keep their eyes on the road. Teach them to constantly watch for traffic and practise double-checking the road before crossing – looking right, left and then right again.

4 LIMIT DISTRACTIONS

Where possible, devices like phones should be kept away from children while out and about near roads. If they're carrying devices, these should be put away until they've reached their destination. Children must also avoid playing with toys or being distracted by friends. If a friend wants to show them something funny on their phone, there'll be time for that once they've safely arrived.

5 SLOW DOWN

Discuss the importance of waiting instead of crossing immediately. It can be tricky to judge the speed of traffic and spot obstacles that could cause a trip or a fall. For safety, children must stop and think before they get to the kerb and should always walk – not run – when crossing the road. They should avoid crossing until they're certain they have plenty of time. Even if traffic seems a long way off, it could still be approaching very quickly.

6 STOP BEFORE THE KERB

Teach children to stop before reaching the kerb – not right at the edge of it. Halting before they get to the kerb allows them to see if anything's coming, whereas getting too close to traffic is dangerous. If there's no pavement, children should stand back from the road's edge but ensure they can still see approaching traffic.

7 CROSS SAFELY

Children should always find a safe spot to cross the road, prioritising zebra crossings or pelican crossings, footbridges and subways. Find a place where they can see traffic coming from both directions. Avoid crossing near junctions, bends in the road, or obstacles that block their view, instead moving to somewhere they can see and be seen. Remind them to use their eyes and ears together when checking the road, as sometimes they can hear traffic before they can see it. Looking and listening while crossing helps them quickly spot traffic, including cyclists and motorcyclists driving between other vehicles.

8 PARKED VEHICLES

Crossing between parked vehicles is very dangerous. Teach children to use extra caution if crossing in this way, and, ideally, avoid it altogether. They should use the outside edge of a vehicle as if it were the kerb, waiting and checking for traffic before moving. They should ensure vehicles aren't about to move, by looking for drivers in the vehicles and listening for engines running – but remember that electric vehicles may move off silently. They should always make sure there is a gap between any parked vehicles on the other side, so they can reach the pavement.

9 REVERSING VEHICLES

Children must never cross behind a reversing vehicle – it's extremely dangerous. Remind them to look for white reversing lights and listen out for warning sounds. Can they hear the engine sound or a radio playing inside the vehicle?

10 WAIT FOR THE BUS TO LEAVE

When getting off a bus, children must wait for it to leave before crossing so they can have a clear view of the road in both directions. This also allows them to see and be seen by other road users. Crossing near large vehicles is particularly dangerous and should be avoided.

Meet Our Expert

THINK! is a year-round national campaign that aims to encourage safe road behaviours – whether we're driving, cycling, horse riding or walking – with the aim of reducing the number of people killed and injured on the UK's roads each year. Find out more at: <https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/>



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

