



Dear parents and carers,

This week, summer seems to have arrived early in the UK. I hope that you have all managed to enjoy some time outside and that you have some lovely plans for the long weekend ahead.

This morning we had a great visit from our Local MP - Josh McAlister. It was great to hear about his work both locally and nationally. The Year 5 and 6 children certainly asked him lots of challenging questions. Throughout his enthusiasm for children and young people, along with our local community, shone through. Thanks for the insights Josh.

Our children have also enjoyed a week of learning to cycle with Pro-Cycle. It's been great seeing so many children master this skill and challenge themselves when riding across our site. Thank you to our local residents who have been patient with our staff as we have cleared the car park for access.

A few reminders for the week ahead.

URGENT - NUTS: Recently, we had a near-miss incident involving a packed lunch that contained nuts. As you may know, we are a nut-free school, and this is a crucial policy in place to ensure the safety of all our children, particularly those with severe nut allergies. I am writing to kindly remind all parents and carers to be extremely vigilant when preparing packed lunches for your children. Please double-check the contents to ensure that no nut-based products are included. Even the smallest trace of nuts can pose a serious threat to those with allergies. We understand that maintaining a nut-free environment can be challenging, but the health and safety of our children is our top priority. We appreciate your cooperation and support in this matter.

Uniform: A reminder that as we move into the summer our uniform changes into summer wear. Make and Uniform. Summer wear and appropriate footwear. Please check out our website for information [Uniform Information | Jericho Primary School](#). Please, can I remind parents that children should be in appropriate footwear? If your child has a medical condition and we need make some adjustments in our uniform policy, please contact the office.

Safety on the road: This week, we have been learning to ride safely around the school site. As the summer comes, we would love for more children to travel to school on their scooters and bikes. Staying safe on our roads isn't just a skill — it's a lifelong habit. It is crucial to learn key strategies for helping children navigate streets safely and confidently, from practising journeys together to teaching them how to choose the safest crossing points. THINK have produced some great guidance on issues like the dangers of parked vehicles, reversing cars and mobile phone distractions — it's an invaluable tool for parents and educators who want to help young people travel independently without compromising their safety.

Reading: Please can I ask you all to encourage your child to read a little each night and record this in their reading diaries. Please also ensure that your child brings their reading book and diary into school. Teachers will be checking diaries daily.

The importance of Reading: As you know we have continued to focus on asking you to hear your child read at home, rather than set homework. Here are some top tips to help you on your reading journey.

1. Build reading into your child's daily routine

Find a regular time for reading in your child's day, so that they can begin to expect it as part of their routine. This can be any time of day. Some children enjoy reading before bed, but others can just be too exhausted at night. It might be better for some children to read just after dinner, or in the morning after breakfast, when they have more energy. You can encourage your child to track their reading using a weekly reading chart. This will help them celebrate their progress.

2. Read every day.

Reading regularly at home provides children with the practice they need to become great readers. Remember, "The more kids read, the better they read," and the same holds true for the opposite effect, "the less kids read, the poorer they'll read." Beyond practice time, reading at home reinforces a positive attitude around reading—kids start to enjoy reading!

The best way to incorporate reading in the household is to devote 20 to 40 minutes, at the same time every evening, to family reading time. Make it part of a routine, as discussed in tip 1. Another fun idea is to have children read to their pets, siblings, or stuffed animals, like a game.

3. Be a great reading partner!

It's no fun to read when you're forced to or feel embarrassed to read. Building trust and supporting a child reader is crucial as a reading partner. Here are some tips for becoming a great reading partner:

- Be patient and encouraging.
- Read aloud and track the words with your finger as you are reading.
- Read the same stories over and over. Try reading the same stories in different ways, with different voices to make it fun and interesting.
- Gently correct mistakes and re-read the entire sentence.
- Give positive feedback and tell the reader he or she is doing a great job.

Let's Celebrate:

Golden Work:

Jago - 3H - impressive independent reading.

Allegra - 1W - going the extra mile in her dancing.

Caleb and Pearl 4W - for accurate coding and commands in ICT.

Dates for the Summer Term 1

28th April - 11th May - Swimming for Year 5 all week

28th April - Year 6 Adventure Visit to Chill Factor

28th April - Reception - Rookery Woods on Monday

28th April - Year 3 Blencathra Visit briefing for parents - 3:30 p.m.

28th April - Year 5 York Visit briefing for parents - 3:40 p.m.

7th and 8th May- Telephone parents meetings - please note that we have rolled these back slightly as our assessments are out of sync due to the roof closure in January

12th May - Year 6 SATS week - all week.

12-14th May - Year 5 Residential to York

12th May 4H Rivers Workshop in School

13th May - 4W Rivers Workshop in School

19th May 4H Rivers Trip offsite

20th May - 4W Rivers Trip offsite

20th May -- Year 4 Hawes End briefing for parents

22nd - 23rd May - Year 3 Residential to Blencathra

Looking ahead:

2nd-4th June - Year 4 Residential to Hawse End

30th June - 3rd July - Year 6 Residential to London

20 is plenty!

Children who read for
20 minutes a day...



Will have a world of
imagination & creativity
opened to them



Will have better
general knowledge



Will be exposed to 1.8
million words a year



Will improve critical
thinking skills



Will improve their
communication skills



Will have a broad
vocabulary



Will have reduced
stress levels



Will learn how to
develop empathy



Will improve their test
results



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

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

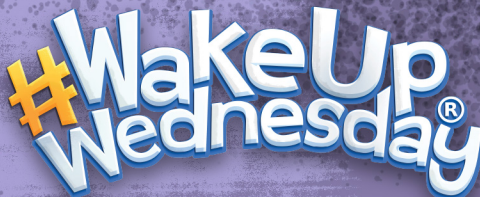
Children must never cross behind a reversing vehicle – it's extremely dangerous. Remind them to look for white reversing lights and listen out for warning sounds. Can they hear the engine sound or a radio playing inside the vehicle?

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/>



The National College®