

Weekly Heads Up

BELIEVE. GROW. SHINE.

NEWS THIS WEEK:

OUR VALUE OF THE WEEK:

Our focus value of the week will be KOINONIA and from Monday, 19th – Friday 23rd October children will receive 2 Dojo points for every koinonia Dojo awarded.

YEAR 6 PARENTS- SECONDARY APPLICATIONS

A reminder to all Year 6 parents and carers that the deadline for applying for a secondary school place for September 2027 is Saturday 31 October 2026.

Applications must be submitted through Suffolk County Council, and we strongly encourage families to apply before the deadline to give their child the best chance of securing a place at one of their preferred schools.

Please remember that you must submit an application even if your child is hoping to attend their catchment secondary school.

Further information and the online application process can be found on the SCC website:

[Suffolk County Council – Apply for a Secondary School Place](#)

If you have not yet completed your application, please make this a priority over the coming days.

CLUBS- AUTUMN 2

Information about our exciting range of clubs for next half term will be shared with parents today via Arbor, so please keep an eye out for the letter!

Bookings will open on Sunday 18th October at 4pm, with clubs starting from Monday 2nd November.

We encourage families to book promptly to avoid disappointment, as places may be limited.



W/C 19TH OCTOBER 2026

DIARY DATES

OCTOBER

22nd- Bags2School

22nd- PTA Disco

19th- Parent Consultations

21st- Parent Consultations

22nd- last day of half term

23rd- PD Day

26th- 30th- Half term

NOVEMBER

20th- Children In Need

DECEMBER

8th- EYs & Yr1 Christmas Performance

9th- EYs & Yr1 Christmas Performance

10th- Yr2 & Yr3 Christmas Performance

11th- Yr2 & Yr3 Christmas Performance

15th- Yrs 4-6 Christmas Performance

16th- Christmas Dinner Day

17th- End of term service

18th- Last day of term

LUNCH MENU

It will be Week 1 on the School Dinner Menu. To check this week's options, please go to: <https://www.risbyprimary.com/school-dinners/>



WORKING TOGETHER: COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOL

Positive communication between home and school is an important part of ensuring that every child feels happy, safe and supported. We value the strong relationships we have with our families and always welcome questions, feedback and concerns.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify our lines of communication so that any questions or concerns can be addressed as quickly and effectively as possible.

Over recent weeks, I have received an increasing number of emails directly from parents about day-to-day classroom matters or incidents involving their children. Whilst I am always happy to hear from families, I would like to remind everyone that your child's class teacher should always be your first point of contact for matters relating to their school day.

Our teachers work closely with your children every day and are therefore best placed to answer questions, explain situations and resolve concerns in the first instance. When enquiries come directly to me, I will usually need to speak to the class teacher before I can respond. This can create unnecessary delays when a conversation with the teacher would often provide a much quicker resolution.

I appreciate that this approach may differ from what some families have been used to previously, so I wanted to make our expectations clear moving forward.

How to get in touch

- **Classroom matters, learning, friendships or day-to-day concerns:** Please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. Brief conversations may be possible at drop-off or collection, but please be mindful that teachers are responsible for supervising children at these times and may not be able to discuss sensitive matters privately.
- **To arrange a conversation with your child's teacher:** Please contact the school office at admin@risbyprimary.com. The office team will pass on your message and arrange for the teacher to contact you at a suitable time.
- **Response times:** Please allow up to two school working days for an initial response to routine enquiries. Our staff spend much of their day teaching and supporting children, so an immediate response is not always possible. Some concerns may require further discussion or investigation, and we will keep you informed where this is the case.
- **Concerns that remain unresolved:** If you have already discussed a matter with your child's class teacher and feel that further support is needed, please contact the school office so that your concern can be directed to the appropriate member of the Senior Leadership Team. I am, of course, always happy to become involved where necessary.
- **Urgent safeguarding or wellbeing concerns:** These should always be raised promptly with the school office by telephone or in person, rather than waiting for an email response.

Working together positively

We recognise that concerns involving our children can understandably bring strong feelings. We ask that all communication remains respectful, constructive and focused on finding a positive way forward. This helps us to understand concerns fully and work together to find the best possible resolution.

I also want to reassure parents that my door remains open. Being an approachable, visible and responsive Headteacher is very important to me, and I will always make time for families when my involvement is needed. Having clear lines of communication is not about making myself less accessible. It is about ensuring that questions and concerns reach the right person in the first instance, allowing them to be addressed efficiently and appropriately. It also enables our teachers to build positive relationships with families and allows me to give the necessary attention to matters that require Headteacher involvement.

Thank you for your understanding and for continuing to work with us to maintain positive and effective communication between home and school.

Ultimately, we all share the same priority: ensuring that every child is happy, safe and thriving at Risby Primary School.

POPPY APPEAL - REMEMBRANCE DAY

After half term, we will once again be supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal in the lead-up to Remembrance Day.

Poppies will be available in school for children to purchase in exchange for a small donation. This is a lovely opportunity for our school community to come together, show our support and take time to remember those who have served and sacrificed.

Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

REMINDER - NO VAPING ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

It has been brought to my attention that a small number of parents have been vaping whilst walking back across the school field towards the top gate after morning drop-off. Can I please remind all parents and visitors that vaping and smoking are not permitted anywhere on the school site, including the school field and pathways.

We want to ensure that our school environment remains safe, healthy and welcoming for all children and families, and we ask everyone to respect this expectation whilst on school grounds.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



The Voice Squad are bringing Legally Blonde Jr. to the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds! A fantastic opportunity to enjoy a brilliant show and support talented young local performers.

For more information and tickets, visit:

<https://theatreroyal.org/events/legally-blonde-jr-voice-squad/>

SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER
10-4PM

A day of connection to the higher realms, Sounding, Drumming, Sharing, Relaxation, Manifesting and held by Divine Spirit.

Connection to Mother Earth, Manifesting
Sound Healing, All drums welcome
Meditation, Dream Board
Shared lunch,
Quantum Healing and Channeling from the Higher Realm

Risby Community Hall, Aylmer Close IP286RT
Delivered by Moira Hoogendijk, Shaman, Light Language and Channeling

£35

Contact Moirahoogendijk.com
for booking, 07949253917

The poster is decorated with autumn-themed illustrations. There are several drums (bongos, congas, and a large drum) and pumpkins scattered around the text. The background is a warm, orange-brown color with falling autumn leaves.

GUY FAWKES



THURSDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER 2026

**Bonfire Bangers or Veggie Bangers
Flaming Potato Wedges, Firework Corn on
the Cob Catherine Wheels, Firecracker
Carrots – Optional: Gunpowder Gravy**

**Popping Candy Sparkling Cake
Fresh Fruit Pot**

LUNCHTIME CO®