



# Governors' Newsletter



Welcome to our Autumn 2016 newsletter.

## Governor news

The current membership of our Governing Body is as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type of Governor</b>
Ian Butler	Local Authority – Chair of Governors
Deb Hastie	Parent Governor
Peter Carr	Parent Governor
Rick Miles	Co-opted Governor
Jon Haslam	Co-opted Governor
Sarah Rhodes	Co-opted Governor
Charlie Heard	Co-opted Governor
Alison Lee	Co-opted Governor – vice-chair of Governors
Carolyn Walker	Co-opted Governor
Jo Brown-Bolton	Co-opted Governor
Sarah Needham	Staff Governor
Ian Yapp	Headteacher
Debbie Penny	Clerk to Governors
John O'Callaghan	Associate Governor
Penny Elmy	Associate Governor
Alison Woodward	Associate Governor
Sue Borradaile	Associate Governor

## A brief message from Ian Butler, Chair of Governors:

Welcome back to another action-packed year at Riverside and an especially warm welcome to all of our new families who begin their time at our exciting and dynamic school.

At the end of last term we said farewell to a wonderful cohort of Year 6 students as they made their way off to secondary school. We also said goodbye to just one or two staff as well as to Matt Copley and Chris Rose, who had served on our Governing Body for many years, bringing great passion, commitment and energy to help us on our continued journey to school improvement. I would like to welcome Sarah Rhodes and Rick Miles to our Governing Body – both Sarah and Rick are parents of pupils at Riverside, but join us in 'co-opted' roles following a selection process last term.

Many of you will be aware that the 2015-2016 school year was one of considerable change in education, most notably with regard to assessment processes, changes to SATs tests and accountability measures. I have no doubt that this flux will continue into this academic year, but throughout you have my assurance on behalf of the Governing Body that we will work relentlessly and robustly alongside school staff and leadership to ensure our children get the very best possible education and that Riverside continues to be a school which is very much on the 'front foot' when it comes to educational provision.

Later on this school year, our school turns 50 years old (as does a certain Headteacher) and we are already considering how to mark this occasion in style!

*Ian C Butler*

## School results

We are delighted to share with parents some of the headline performance information from the 2015-16 school year, which has become available during the summer.

## Early Years

At the end of the 2015-16 school year, children in Reception were assessed as follows:

		<b>% expected or exceeding grade</b>
<b>Areas of learning</b>	Communication and language	92
	Physical development	97
	Personal, social and emotional development	90
	Literacy	85
	Maths	93
	Understanding the world	97
	Expressive arts and design	95
<b>Overall</b>	Prime learning goals	84%
	Specific learning goals	76%
	All learning goals	76%

76% of our pupils showed a 'good level of development' compared to 69% nationally, which demonstrates both an able cohort and the challenging provision on offer in our Early Years.

In most areas, the Reception outcomes (% attaining each of the above and % attaining overall 'good level of development') showed a good improvement on 2015.

*Across Reception, 89% of pupils made expected (or better than expected) progress for reading, 80% for writing and 89% for maths.*

*Many pupils actually made even more progress – above expectations (29% rapid progress for reading, 18% for writing and 35% for maths).*

Where individual children have not met Early Years expectations in certain areas, they will of course be tracked carefully and given tailored support in Year 1 to ensure they catch up. Where pupils met or exceeded expectations in Early Years, they are ready to make a flying start in Year 1!

### Key Stages 1 and 2

The annual tests and teacher assessments for Key Stages 1 and 2, for 2016, showed the following outcomes:

#### Key Stage 1

Year 2				
	School % at expected standard	National % at expected standard	School % working at greater depth	National % working at greater depth
Reading	67%	74%	36%	24%
Writing	60%	66%	15%	13%
Maths	56%	73%	16%	18%
RWM combined	47%	60%	7%	9%

This was the first year of the new test framework for Year 2 with challenging new standards in place for each of the core areas.

Whilst reading and writing were broadly in line with national (with higher grades for reading above national) we found that pupils struggled in the maths assessments and in turn this has resulted in a combined reading-writing-maths percentage below national.

A particular focus for the coming year will therefore be given to maths:

- For our current Year 3 to ensure that any 'catch up' needed against these Y2 results is soon made
- For Key Stage 1 in general, to ensure all pupils are suitably challenged and supported in their learning and that Year 2 are well prepared for the assessment period

#### Phonics

Our Year 1 phonics test results steadily improved between 2012 and 2014, but dropped in 2015. This year our Year 1 results greatly improved with 73% working at the expected standard. Given the range of individual need in the Year 1 cohort for 2015, this represented considerable in-year progress for many of our youngsters.

Of the pupils in Year 2 needing to re-take the test from Year 1, 66% of those pupils passed the test.

All pupils entering Year 2 this Autumn will continue to have daily phonics input, with particular focus on those individuals who did not pass the test in 2015 and so will re-take the test in Year 2.

All pupils entering Year 3 who have not reached the test standard in phonics will continue to have bespoke provision in Year 3.

### Key Stage 2

Year 6				
	School % at expected standard	National % at expected standard	School % working at greater depth	National % working at greater depth
Reading test	68%	66%	44%	18%
Reading teacher assessment	86%			
Writing	70%	73%	7%	14%
Maths test	79%	70%	18%	17%
Maths teacher assessment	89%			
SPaG test	74%	73%	32%	22%
SPaG teacher assessment	75%			
RWM combined	60%	53%	4%	5%

	School	National
Average scaled score in reading	105	103
Average scaled score in SPaG	105	104
Average scaled score in maths	104	104
Reading progress score	+1.3	
Writing progress score	-2.2	
Maths progress score	+0.1	

As with Year 2, this year saw our Year 6 students sit new SATs tests and assessed using new Test Frameworks. What is more, they were tested against a Key Stage 2 Curriculum which they have only been taught since the beginning of Year 5!

Broadly, our Year 6 cohort performed well against national comparators and against the challenging new assessment frameworks.

As ever with our wonderful Riverside students, Year 6 applied themselves well throughout the year and showed a superb, responsible attitude during the assessment period.

We were particularly pleased to see that a cohort of pupils who were generally high attaining when they were in Year 2 were able to repeat this success in the new tests especially demonstrating some good performance in the 'higher standards'.

The reading test is now nationally known for being tricky and we were pleased to have a positive progress score with our higher ability pupils doing especially well.

Maths had been an area of concern going into Year 6 and so to perform well against national percentages and with a positive progress score was a marked success for staff and students.

The writing progress score is negative, meaning that our students made less progress than others

nationally. In part we believe this related to the ever-changing advice about writing last year, in part because our focus was on getting pupils to pass the new stretching standard as opposed to aiming for the next stage up, the higher standard. Writing will most be an area of focus for us this coming year.

### ***What next?***

There are several points of reflection and action in the 2016 performance data. In the 2016/17 academic year, school will:

- Continue to ensure our pupils attain well in phonics, building on the improvements made in 2016
- Set challenging targets for all year groups to make sure pupils make good progress across a year and across a key stage
- Aspire for all pupils to do as well as possible in maths, especially at Key Stage 1, for girls across the whole school and stretching those working at higher levels.
- Ensure writing attainment and progress is maximised throughout the whole school, including ensuring our students are suitably prepared for the assessments in Years 2 and 6, including the higher standard
- Continue to develop those approaches to writing that have been having positive impact over the past few years
- Prepare for and maximise attainment in the 2017 Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 tests
- Challenge ALL pupils to make the best possible progress in their learning including through a highly targeted approach
- Continue to enhance all areas of provision for the more able – continue to deliver real stretch and challenge and with it see more and more pupils make ABOVE expected progress

As you will see from this list of actions, we are keen to challenge ourselves to help our pupils achieve the very best that they are able!

### **Changes to the Leadership Team**

The Leadership team at Riverside is to change shortly with Miss Woodward increasing her Deputy Headteacher responsibilities following Miss Elmy's decision to step down from her Deputy Headship. Provision is already in place to ensure Miss Woodward's class is fully supported for the two dedicated days that are being allocated to her increased Leadership duties. Miss Elmy's role as Year 3 teacher is unaffected by the change, apart from her now being able to spend more time with her class.

### **Parking issues**

We know that drop off and pick up times in the Riverside car park are always very busy and the safety of pupils and pedestrians remains paramount. Unfortunately, we have regularly seen vehicles parked at the end of the entrance ramp and on the end of the island. This makes it difficult for cars to manoeuvre and makes it more hazardous for the children. We would ask that anyone using the car park only parks in the designated spaces. If we decide the situation is potentially dangerous the Governing Body will have to consider other options. This could mean closing the car park during drop off and pick up times. Please help us to keep the school grounds safe for all our children.

### **Advice on gifts**

Staff at Riverside are always delighted to receive small thank you gifts from parents and carers at Christmas and at the end of the school year. Many parents are extremely generous but we would ask that any gifts be kept under £10 in value, as recommended in North Yorkshire County Council's policy on gifts and hospitality for staff.

### **And finally....**

We are a school working to further secure our GOOD judgement and take steps towards becoming OUTSTANDING.

We always welcome your thoughts, comments and ideas, which help us shape our school into a true COMMUNITY primary school.

Please do give us your feedback, both directly to the school office, for families of new starters through our Induction Survey (which comes out each October) and also through the Ofsted ParentView website – which can be accessed via the school website.