

# RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018

### Wet mornings



Not sure we have really seen the back of Winter yet, but with Spring usually being inclement to say the least, please can I take this opportunity to reinforce a few important weather related messages:

- Ensure your child has weather appropriate clothing - especially footwear - wellies are great and not just for little ones!
- If your child is the type who always seems to get themselves wet and messy consider sending in extra clothes.
- Remember, we insist on a change of indoor shoes - if your child does not have these, he/she will end up in socks. (Of course, we do sell pumps in school!)
- Ensure ALL clothing items are name-labelled.
- Do not allow your child to arrive too early on inclement mornings as we do not have room for more than 400 pupils before the teaching day starts. On wet/icy days we open doors at 8.45am with Key Stage 1 going into classes and Key Stage 2 into the hall. **On these wet days, therefore, it is important that children DO NOT arrive before 8.45am, so, if needed, delay your start on a bad weather day! If wet, all pupils arriving by school buses will be accommodated indoors.**

### Consultation evenings and mid-year report

Just to remind you that parent-teacher consultation evenings will soon be upon us again. The dates are already set, with timings to mirror those which have worked successfully through last year:  
Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 3.30-6.00pm  
Weds 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 3.30-6.00pm  
Actual appointment times online might vary slightly for some individual staff.



You will be able to book your appointments online from 7.30am on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February through to 9am on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. After this time, bookings will only be possible via direct contact with the school, so book early to avoid disappointment!  
As ever, at Riverside, our parent-teacher evenings are focused on pupil progress. At these evenings we will be concentrating on:

- Progress made since the beginning of year
- Progress on targets discussed at last parents' meeting
- Reasons for progress or otherwise
- Successes and areas for improvement
- Suggested targets for the end of the year
- Steps to get there and how you can help at home with areas such as maths and reading

As an addition this year you will receive a copy of a mid-year report for your child which contains their targets which will have been previously discussed and agreed between your child and their teacher in school. The mid-year report is a 'prototype' form which we hope will be of use - we will be taking some feedback in early March and then working towards a revised end of year format for July 2018. Mid-year reports will be issued on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February to allow you to read them before parents' evenings. You may also wish to bring along the previously circulated Parents' Evenings 'notes sheet' - copies available from our website [HERE](#).

Should your Parents' Evening session begin to over-run, we may ask you to come back and finish the discussion on another date, out of fairness to other families. If you feel that you will need a longer discussion then please do get in contact with your child's teacher directly as it may be easier to arrange an alternative appointment to the actual parents' evening itself.

**Don't forget - the online system allows you to submit queries to staff in advance which will help them prepare for anything you may wish to discuss.**



We will be hosting a School Bookfair in the Courtyard Room before and after school on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March. This will also be available through our Parents' Evenings. As you will be aware, not only do you get the chance to purchase books at discounted prices, but also we earn commission to buy books back from the fair at discount.

### Half-term reading challenge



Over the next few days, you will receive a sponsor form for your child to take part in a reading challenge over February half-term. All pupils in school are encouraged to take part - younger pupils reading with an adult and older pupils encouraged to read more independently. The challenge being both to read lots of books and of course be sponsored for this challenge. The reading challenge allows us to claim an additional percentage in free books. For example, if we raise £600 we earn an extra £360 in bonus books. This is another great opportunity to add to our reading resource in school so please encourage your child to take part and family and friends to pledge a little sponsor money to your child.

### Notifying pupil absence

As I am sure you are aware, classroom registers are marked straight to our main computer system. It is vital that every incidence of pupil absence is properly coded in a timely fashion - this can only be done once we hear from parents. If your child is

absent, for any reason, you can let us know in the following ways on the very first day of absence:

- Email us at [schooloffice@riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk)
- Ring 01937 832899 and leave us a message
- Write your child's teacher a note
- Let your child's teacher or our admin team know in person

We are not able to accept verbal reasons from pupils. If we do not hear within two weeks of an absence we do mark those sessions as 'unauthorised absence'. You will I am sure be aware that since September 2013, unauthorised absence (including when parents take unauthorised holidays) is subject to penalty notice fining procedures and as such it is important that all absences have a reason given. I am delighted that last academic year saw our overall attendance at over 97%, which is an amazing achievement. Thank you.

### Social networking - annual reminder



The following is a general statement on social media issued by North Yorkshire:

'Parents of children in North Yorkshire schools are increasingly using social networking sites such as Facebook to talk to their friends. Sometimes parents have used these sites to criticise or make inappropriate comments about schools or even individual teachers. Making defamatory comments on the internet has exactly the same serious legal consequences as if they are made directly to someone else. Legal action could be taken against the person who has made the online comment. Similarly threats of violence can lead to criminal proceedings under the Malicious Communications Act 1988.

If you have any concerns about anything which happens in school please speak to your child's class teacher or the Headteacher who will do their best to resolve things. If you are still unhappy we have a complaints procedure which will ensure that your concerns are investigated thoroughly and appropriate action taken.'

Thankfully this is a phenomenon which only very rarely affects Riverside. Hopefully this infrequency means we are both getting quite a few things right and where there are concerns you feel able to come and discuss them directly with us rather than post on social media. Long may this continue!

### Friends events



**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February** sees our annual Valentine's Disco, with infants 6-6.45pm and juniors 7-8pm. All funds raised are going towards the current projects supported by the Friends of Riverside - outdoor developments, reading stock and general enhancements to the school including entrance signs. Don't forget Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February also the last day of term for the pupils and that school re-opens on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

### Tadcaster Bridge Lantern Ceremony

You may be aware that very recently some of our pupils took part in a lantern making project. This was in the lead up to the planned anniversary of Tadcaster Bridge re-opening on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2018. More details to follow but on the day there will be various activities around Tadcaster including a vintage car rally, skate park, crafts, historic exhibits, living history and then the day will culminate with a torch ceremony on the bridge at around 6.45pm.

Look out for posters very soon!

### Internet safety day



On the 6<sup>th</sup> February, Riverside will be celebrating internet safety day. This is an opportunity for all pupils to further their understanding of their online responsibilities, highlight the importance of safely using the internet and raise awareness of cyber bullying and the affects that can have on others. While internet safety is very visible in our everyday routines at Riverside, we are very proud to take part in and support this national event. To mark the day, all children from Early Years to Key Stage 2, will receive an assembly that will link in to further lessons in their classrooms. This year's theme 'Create, connect and share respect: A better internet starts with you!' promotes wellbeing and healthy relationships. If you would like any further advice on internet safety, please see the school website or contact Mr Calvert - our school computing lead.

### Dates To Remember

#### **February 2018**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb Internet Safety Day  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb Valentines Day lunch  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb Halfterm finishes  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February school discos

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb Term starts for pupils  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb Full Governors Meeting 6.30pm  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb Chinese New Year lunch  
Week of 19<sup>th</sup> Feb- Reception PE skills week  
Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Feb and Weds 28<sup>th</sup> Feb Spring parents evenings  
Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Feb to Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> March Travelling Books Bookfair

#### **March 2018**

Thurs March 1<sup>st</sup> y6 STAR k'bots challenge day 2  
Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> March World Book day - activities and themed lunch  
Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> and Fri 9<sup>th</sup> March y6 STAR Able Writers workshop in Play Place  
Weds 14<sup>th</sup> March ks1 Able Maths workshop STAR  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March y3 Roman Day at Murton Park  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March Full Governors Meeting 6.30pm  
Tues 27<sup>th</sup> and Weds 28<sup>th</sup> March y3/4 Easter Show performances PM  
Weds 28<sup>th</sup> March Easter Lunch  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March School closes for Easter

#### **April 2018**

Mon 16<sup>th</sup> April Training day - school closed to pupils  
Tues 17<sup>th</sup> April term starts for pupils

Thank you for your continued support  
Ian Yapp  
Headteacher