

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday 12th January 2018

A very Happy New Year and welcome back to all our children!

New starters

URGENT - if your child is eligible to start Reception in September 2018 you MUST apply online for a school place with North Yorkshire County Council by 15th January! Please pass on this message as we don't want anyone to lose out. We look to have some capacity in Reception 2018, including for families applying from outside our normal catchment area. The deadline is just days away! ALL families must formally apply for the school online, even if your child attends our nursery. If unsure, please contact us on 01937 832899. If you intend your child to start Reception in September and you would like them to attend the Play Place (before and after school club), please contact us to place them on the waiting list as soon as possible.

Starting the new year off in the right way!

We know that we are very privileged at Riverside to have such well-behaved, well-mannered, articulate pupils - it allows for an enthusiastic positive learning environment where we can all have fun and make great progress together.

LOOK SMART - THINK SMART - ACT SMART



Being well-presented, with all the equipment needed for the day, homework complete and ready to learn - these are key ingredients for successful learning. The new year is a perfect time to ensure that everything is well set for the year ahead and we would ask for your continued support in this.

STAR Multi Academy Trust consultation

Please can I take this opportunity to remind parents to respond to the consultation around the formation of the STAR MAT. Full details of the proposal along with a consultation response form are available [HERE](#).



Don't forget also, that there is a consultation meeting on Monday 22nd January at 6.30pm at the Tadcaster Methodist Church. If you cannot attend this event or have any individual queries, please do not hesitate to contact me. The consultation closes on 26th January.

Staffing update

This term sees just a few changes to our staffing model. With the departure of Mrs Needham last term, Mrs Thompson will be teaching 6SN through to the summer with Mrs Tranter now teaching full time in 4TT. We are delighted to confirm that Miss Cade will extend her supply contract in 3SC. Later this term, Mrs Robin will take maternity leave from Nursery - congratulations to Mrs Robin. We will write out to Nursery parents very soon, with details of future staffing during the leave period.

Pastoral support for pupils and families

We are very proud of the support we offer for our students and the links we have through to various agencies and charities beyond the school.

Mrs Deakin has recently developed some materials to explain the support available - you can read more [HERE](#). Click [HERE](#) for news of what's on at our local Children's Centres to support your family.

Clubs

Places for this term's clubs are already booking quickly. The [clubs schedule](#) was circulated last term and is also available on the 'information - clubs' section of our website. Please remember, if your child is signed up for a club and they cannot attend for any reason (party, doctor's appointment, etc) please notify the school office - our club providers all have a register of attendance and of course get very concerned if a pupil doesn't arrive with them - please help us prevent unnecessary phone calls!

Community update

Inspired by our ever active School Council, Christmas saw our pupils collect charitable donations for Alzheimer's UK.

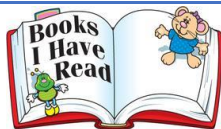


The School Council bought hundreds of cardboard cups with lids, as well as pupil prizes. Our pupils were then challenged to decorate a cup to hang on the school Christmas tree, also filling the cups with the 'pennies' they would save by not sending Christmas cards.

Between our Christmas cups and donations from Christmas concerts, we managed to raise a simply amazing £1606, with over £630 from the cups alone! The School Council have already pledged to continue to support a pupil called Edmund who lives in Armenia, leaving a HUGE balance of around £1300 going to Alzheimer's, which will surely make a real difference to their funds.

The last day of term also saw us host around 140 local people for our annual sherry and mince pie concert. Judging by the lovely comments I had at the end, this event continues to be very special and well received.

With a little help from our FRIENDS



Last term you will have noticed that our pupils were running various class-level fund-raising activities over playtimes. Each class was tasked to use their enterprise skills to raise money to buy games and activities for wet playtimes. If they managed to hit a magic £50, then Friends of Riverside kindly matched this to allow £100 of new purchases. Great for enterprise education and also to have some 'ownership' of the materials chosen and bought. Another great match funding activity has seen Friends contribute to school funding to buy additional books for classroom libraries. Alongside money raised from bookfairs we are investing nearly £3000 in additional reading materials, which I am sure everyone will see as a fantastic development in these times of austerity!

Nursery availability

There is some availability in our Nursery this term, which includes both 15 and 30 hour entitlements. If you would like to discuss taking some additional sessions for your child, please contact the school office on 01937 832899 or via admin@riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk. Don't forget our Nursery offer now includes taking children from the actual date of their 3rd birthday.

Meals census



As mentioned earlier this academic year, the amount of income we receive for infant school meals is calculated across two meal 'census' days. The first such day was in October. The second is Thursday 18th January. It makes a HUGE difference to our budget if every infant pupil takes a meal on that date as it will count as if they have a meal every day of the year! The menu for the day is a popular favourite - sausages (or veggie sausages), baked beans and chips; jacket potato option; pasta bolognese; salad bar and dessert of chocolate cake with chocolate icing or fresh fruit and yoghurt.

This meals census day we would like to encourage every infant pupil to at least sample from our 'taster menu' and so on the 18th we will be giving every infant pupil taster samples even if they come with a packed lunch - please let us know if you do NOT want your child to have the taster menu.

Pupil Premium

Another way you can help our school and your own individual child is with regard PUPIL PREMIUM.

This is where the school receives extra money to provide additional support for our students. We receive Pupil Premium for pupils who have previously been or are currently in care, for pupils who come from forces families and for pupils who are currently in receipt of Free School Meals, or have received Free School Meals at any point within the last 6 years.

Whilst children in Reception, years 1 and 2 automatically receive a free meal at lunchtime please could I urge parents of pupils in those year groups (and indeed elsewhere in school) to consider applying for Free School Meals if they believe they are eligible as the additional income we will receive will help us to add value to what we do for your child for the next 6 years!

To find out more about the eligibility criteria please click [HERE](#).

Bags2School

Wednesday 24th January is our next Bags2School collection. Bags have already been circulated from school, but feel free to fill extra bin bags! Bags full of clothes, etc, can then be left next to the lamp-post at the edge of the parent car park (the one with the high level sign on it) for collection at around 9am on the MORNING of 24th January. Each year, not only do the clothes you donate go on to worthwhile homes, but we also earn some valuable funds for the Friends of School.

Dates to remember

January 2018

Fri 12th Jan Year group letters out
Monday 15th Jan Full Governors Meeting 6.30pm
Monday 22nd Jan - STAR MAT consultation meeting
Friday 26th Jan MAT consultation closes

February 2018

Tuesday 6th Feb Internet Safety Day
Friday 9th Feb STAR MFL day
Friday 9th Feb Valentines Day lunch
Friday 9th Feb Halfterm finishes
Friday 9th February school discos
Monday 19th Feb Term starts for pupils

Change of date - we have decided to move our STEM week to week 21st May 2018, given how short this first half term is!

Thank you for your continued support - here's to another great year.

Ian Yapp
Headteacher