

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday 4th March 2016

Parents' evening follow up

Following parent-teacher consultation appointments earlier this week, we have placed various materials on our school website to help you work with your child at home:

- Reading helpsheet
- Activity mats for each of our Space Mission Instant Recall Facts (SMIRFs)

All of these materials are available under 'Teaching and Learning' on our current school site (see later article), with the SMIRFs information on the [SMIRFs sub-page](#).

I hope that these will be of use - do get in contact with us via the School Office if you have any ideas for how we can further help you support your child's learning.

We need pants!



Accidents happen in primary schools and we would very much welcome donations of underwear and boys' trousers for our EYFS/Key Stage One 'spares' boxes.

Parking on-site

Several parents have raised concern over recent weeks with regard parking and manoeuvring in and around the Parents Car Park. Having been on bus duty most days, there are a few points I would like to highlight:

- There are marked bays in the car park. Please use these and do not park across the corners of the traffic island or on the grass
- No vehicle should be parked onto any curb around the site. Recently several vehicles have been left obstructing pedestrian crossing points and pavements
- No parent vehicles should be parked down the staff drive

There is no way our car park can accommodate the amount of traffic frequenting Riverside. We are deeply appreciative of all those families who choose to walk, or park off-site and walk the last bit of the journey as this helps alleviate on-site traffic.

Sport Relief



As you may already be aware the Sport Relief weekend is just around the corner with events taking place across the country from 18th - 20th March. The work done by this charity makes a massive difference to the lives of many adults and children in poorer areas of the world and we would very much like our children to be able to contribute.

We are inviting the children to come to school on March 18th dressed in a 'sporty' way. This can be anything from wearing their normal PE kit to dressing up as a sporting hero. All we ask in return is a small donation of £1.

During the afternoon, the whole school will be involved in the Riverside Sport Relief Mile as the children (and staff!) take to the school field with the aim of running a mile. (In the case of smaller, younger legs, this may be a walk/run less than a mile.) If your child has never run this far before, they still have a small amount of time to get in some last minute training and step up to a new challenge!

In addition, we would like to encourage the children to get creative and take on their own Sport Relief sponsored challenge at home. This could be 'How many press ups can I do in a minute?', a mini skipathon, or a swim or a bike ride - anything at all as long as they can persuade friends and family to sponsor them a small amount. We know our children are brilliant at helping others, so let's get inspired and help to make a difference to others! As ever, please talk to your child about safety when collecting sponsorship.

Thank you for your support.

Sarah Needham

SMIRFS - Space mission instant recall facts

As you are aware, every child from Reception upwards has a SMIRF target sheet in their planner. This contains key mental maths skills for your child to practise at home. To help you support your child, we have devised a SMIRF practice sheet for each 'planet' in the scheme. Hopefully, your child should have brought this home for you to look at (if not, please see your child's teacher for another copy). The activities on the sheet should improve your child's mathematical fluency and hopefully be fun as well as challenging. We try to ensure that your child has a secure grasp of each of the skills before we move them onto the next planet. It is anticipated that most children will 'visit' two planets each year. We would welcome any feedback on the sheets and please feel free to discuss them further with your child's teacher if you are unsure about any aspect of the scheme.

Happy space travelling!

Leave applications

Please can I remind all parents considering making a leave application that this should be done using the official application form available from the school office and via our website. Even if you believe that your leave application will be declined because it does not fit the criteria for exceptional circumstances, it is still important to use the application form. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Easter lunch



This year's Easter lunch will be on Wednesday 23rd March. The meal that day will be roast chicken, stuffing and gravy, with roast potatoes, carrots, broccoli and crusty bread, followed by a chocolate crispy bun with a chocolate egg. Usual pricing and alternative menu options apply.

Tuesday 22nd March menu, which would have been served on Wednesday, will be lasagne, followed by flapjack.

Staying safe online



Information technology is rapidly changing the world we live in, especially for youngsters accessing the internet and social media. Last year our Year 5 and 6 pupils were involved in some successful workshops on staying safe online.

On Wednesday 22nd June, I have arranged for our Year 5 and 6 pupils to have similar workshops again.

Later that afternoon it is our Celebration of Work Evening from 3.30-6.00pm, when parents can look around school and visit both your child's current classroom and their new one for September. At 6pm that evening in the School Hall, we will be running a Cyber Safety workshop, which is suitable for ALL parents. Please note it is not suitable for children, so you will need to make appropriate childcare arrangements if you would like to attend. Several parents have been in touch asking for advice and support so I really hope this evening will be of benefit.

Year 3 & 4 Show

On Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd March, Year 3 and 4 pupils will be performing their Spring Show. This year's show is a hand-crafted version of Matilda, with some superb songs and a script created by our very own Mr Calvert!



The afternoon of Tuesday 22nd March at 2.00pm will see 4TT take the lead roles, while the afternoon of Wednesday 23rd March at 2.00pm will see 4WC take the lead. Good luck to all - break a leg!

Parents - Riverside Bookworms want to hear from you!



Riverside Bookworms is a Year 6 Book Club, which meets every Tuesday lunchtime. Our enthusiastic members are keen to spread their love of reading throughout the school, and we have lots of activities planned to do this. We are beginning by producing book reviews of great books we have read, to display in school and encourage other children to try reading something different. Members will be interviewing teachers to get their recommendations, and we would love to hear from parents too! If you have a favourite children's book that you would like to recommend, please go to the 'Teaching and Learning' section of our website, or visit any of the leaflet racks inside our school entrances and fill in a book review form. We will then display these on our club noticeboard.

Thank you
Steph Cowler

New school website

Wednesday 23rd March should see the launch of our new school website. We have been busy in the background building the new site which has a more organised, modern feel to it and most vitally is constructed using software which will allow

us to be innovative and use forums, Twitter, interactive media and much more.

Once live we will finish testing the site over Easter and I will write out again immediately after the Easter holidays with a short user guide. One of the key features of our new site is that you will be able to register your details so that you can be notified when new, relevant articles are published.

We will very happily take any user feedback and ideas for further enhancements from the first day the new site is live.

The web address for the site will remain as

www.riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk

Changes to assessment and reporting at Years 2 and 6



You may be aware from previous newsletters, the media, or talking to your child and their class teacher, that this year will see substantially changed assessment and reporting arrangements for Years 2 and 6. There will be some new tests, changes to teacher assessments and judgements made will no longer be against 'levels'. On top of this, the thresholds in some areas have been raised, in effect meaning it has become more difficult to 'pass'.

2016 has been described as an 'interim year' because the approach may well change again for 2017.

To help parents (and children) understand some of these changes, we are hosting two parent workshops to share the most up-to-date information, although things may still change again before we get through to tests. I would strongly urge you to try and attend; Year 6 children are encouraged to attend alongside parents.

We know that these tests can be an anxious time, even without the concern caused by these changes. Rest assured that, whatever happens, we will be doing our best to make things as stress-free as possible for you and your children.

The workshops are:

- Year 6: Tuesday 22nd March 6.30-7.30pm
- Year 2: Monday 21st March 6.30-7.30pm

Dates To Remember

March 2016

Weds 9th March Able Writers Day

Thurs 10th March Able Writers Day

Friday 18th March Sport Relief 'dress down day' and mile run

Mon 21st March Resources Governors Committee Meeting

Tues 22nd and Weds 23rd March y3/4 show PM

Tues 22nd March 6.30pm Year 6 assessment workshop

Weds 23rd March Easter Lunch

Weds 23rd March Close for holidays

Thurs 24th March Training Day—school closed to pupils

April 2016

Monday 11th April Training Day - school closed to pupils

Tuesday 12th April Term starts

Thursday 14th April 6.30pm Wales residential parents mtg

Thank you for your continued support

Ian Yapp

Headteacher

NB Don't forget school closes Weds 23rd March and re-opens Tues 12th April! There are staff training days on either side of the Easter break.