

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday 8th September 2017

So here we are ready for another exciting year - welcome back to everyone! It is always a pleasure to see the children return to school, smartly dressed, full of news and ready for their new classes. A big welcome too, to all of the new pupils joining main school in Reception, starting their time at Riverside in our Nursery, as well as the many new starters in other year groups.

This newsletter has been sent out by hand to start off the year. From here on, newsletters will be sent out electronically only, on the first Friday of each month in term-time. You will receive a text to say that the newsletter is available on the school website, with a limited number of paper copies also available inside each entrance door.

If you have not received a 'welcome back' text earlier this week, or a text to say this newsletter is available, then we do not have your correct mobile number on our system - please ring the School Office on 01937 832899 to get this set up!

On the subject of our school website (www.riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk) please can I remind all families that by clicking on the 'subscribe to updates' link at the top of the homepage, you can register your email address and our system will automatically email links to newsletters etc. For those families new to Riverside or to our after-school club, The Play Place, detailed information can be found on our website in the form of the School Prospectus and Play Place Prospectus, both available via the 'information' tab. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter, [@TadRiverside](https://twitter.com/TadRiverside), and see photos and videos of all the fun happening in school!

New school contact email

Last term we said a fond farewell to Mrs Marshall after some 17 years working in the School Office. This term we welcome Mrs Barnes to the admin team, working Monday-Wednesday.

We now have an admin team of four staff, all of whom work different days/hours. With so many families now choosing to get in contact with us via email we are concerned that important emails sometimes arrive into email accounts of part-time admin staff. With this in mind we have set up a shared admin email address.



If you email:

SchoolOffice@riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk

It will arrive in all four admin team members inbox accounts and one of the team will generate a timely response. From this point forwards, the SchoolOffice@ account is the best address to use for pupil absence, finance related queries and general school admin. If your email is of a more sensitive nature then please do continue to email admin@riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk which is the account of Mrs Borradaile our School Business Manager, who will handle such enquiries.

Staffing update

As ever in a large school, the new academic year has seen a few changes to staffing.

We welcome Miss Sarah Cade to our teaching staff in Year 3 and Mrs Sarah Ritchie to the year 1 jobshare working Mondays and Tuesdays in class 1RD, alongside Mrs Deakin (formerly Miss Hunter).

School meals

School meals are costed at £2.20 per meal for junior school pupils, £1.70 for Nursery. All pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal.



Don't forget, menus are always available via our school website, under 'information' and then 'meals and menu,' or you can just click [HERE](#).

From this term, our school catering has gone completely nut free. We have an ever-increasing number of pupils in school with allergic reactions and this move will help us continue to minimise risk whilst providing good quality food to cater for every dietary requirement. To fit in with this we would also ask that parents sending in packed lunches also consider going nut free (most already are) to help us in this endeavour.

School uniform

Thank you for sending your children so smartly dressed - it really does set the school image off a treat!

Don't forget to check with your child's class teacher when PE kit is required and ensure suitable clothing is in place for either outdoor or indoor use, especially footwear for use on wet grass! At the end of last term we had a HUGE amount of un-named lost property. Please could I urge you to name everything!

Don't forget either that we are insisting that ALL pupils have a suitable bookbag to protect their reading book and planner and to ensure that letters home do not get lost! School branded bookbags are available to purchase via the School Office at £5 each or you may prefer to purchase elsewhere (preferably blue and plain, similar in design to the school ones). These bags should all be of a size to bring into class to contain just reading book, planner, letters home etc.

Attendance, termtime leave and lateness



Our attendance has improved greatly in recent years - it is securely outstanding and in the top 10% nationally for the past 2 years. **Thank you for your help with this.**

Please do not forget that schools are not allowed to authorise any leave for holiday during term time. Leave of

absence for pupils (apart from sickness absence and medical appointments, etc) can only be authorised for exceptional circumstances such as bereavement. See the website for further information and leave application forms. Given that these applications should be extremely rare, I would welcome a personal discussion before any application is made in writing. Unfortunately I had to send off paperwork for several Penalty Notices during the summer term, with parents subsequently issued with fines by the local authority. The guiding principle has to be ALL pupils attend every single day of school, on time and ready to learn. Please also remember:

- School starts at 9am prompt, with doors opening for infants at 8.50am and juniors at 8.55am - don't let your child get a late mark - registers are taken at 9.00am and close with pupils becoming late at 9.10am!
- Please don't forget that Nursery session timings have changed and the morning session now starts at 9am
- The school has a duty to track and improve any pupil whose attendance falls below 90% (we would like all pupils above 95%). I will soon be writing to families of pupils whose attendance gave cause for concern last year to see how we can work together to improve this.
- With regard holiday applications because parents are unable to take leave from work, the guidance is that employer related exceptional circumstance is only where an employer allocates all annual leave and leaves a parent with no possible family holiday time apart from during termtime when looking at the year as a whole. In effect, this only really impacts on forces and occasionally 'factory closedown'. An employer letter would need to state very clearly ALL of the leave dates allocated to an employee across the whole annual calendar as proof that the family holiday could not be taken in any other school holidays (eg not just the summer break). Please do make an appointment to come and discuss further if needed

Don't forget, if your child is absent for any reason we need to hear from you on the first day they are off BEFORE 9.15am. Most families already do this; it helps keep records accurate - phone, pop in to class, come past the office or email. The school office can be contacted on 01937 832899. **If we do not hear from you, you will receive a text reminder. Just to reinforce that if you do not notify a reason for absence, that session will be coded as 'unauthorised' and ultimately could result in a Penalty Notice being issued.**

Paperwork, paperwork...

Around now you should receive a pack of paperwork to start the year. Apologies for this, but there are some important things we need returned in order to provide for your child; included in this information is a full set of important dates for this academic year, so that you can plan your diaries! *Class teachers are also compiling important information, so if your child has medical needs (inhalers, glasses, etc) or dietary requirements (including allergies), please drop the teacher a line or pop into school to ensure this information is on our records. It is also extremely useful*

to know when home circumstances change significantly, as this too helps us work effectively with your child. Can we also remind families to make themselves familiar with the content under the 'filing cabinet' section of our website as this section hosts various consent forms as well as information around data processing [HERE](#).

School site



Our school building works have all (JUST ABOUT!!) been completed to plan and we return with a brand new hall extension, an additional meeting room and refurbished key stage one toilets along with redecoration to many rooms through school. The works have been underway right through to 4th September so please do 'bear with' us as we get everything back in the right place - staff have in effect been banned from site during the holidays! We also have quite a long 'snagging' list to process.

Up and coming events

We have recently planned the year's events into the calendar, right through to July 2018 - a copy of this should arrive in your welcome pack and is also available [HERE](#) on the school website.



For those of you with compatible smartphones, tablets and PCs, we again offer a downloadable school calendar. To add this year's events to your device, visit the calendar page of our website [HERE](#) and click on '+ Google calendar.' This contains all of the school dates so you can set up alerts to remind you! This is a different calendar download to last year, so don't rely on last year's download as it won't work! Three dates which may be of immediate interest are 'welcome to our year group' meetings which are planned for the following year groups:
Tuesday 12th Sept 6pm for parents of pupils in year 2
Wednesday 13th Sept 6pm for year 4
Thursday 14th Sept for year 5
Thursday 14th Sept for year 6
On Friday 6th October we would like to invite parents of pupils who have just joined reception and nursery to join us in the Link, to share a cup of tea/coffee and have an informal chat. Various staff will be available to discuss any settling in queries and we will ensure a few toys are on hand for toddlers!

Clubs

Available shortly will be the timetable for this term's clubs - we will text out a link to a website article with this term's schedule.

Most clubs start in the week of 18th September. Please ensure you book up at the School Office as soon as possible. The clubs' timetable will also available via the school website and on the school courtyard display board.

Planners, SMIRFS and All That!

With great thanks to Hunters, Lambert, Tadcaster Enterprise Park, Glug Glug Glug, Adventure Photography, William Birch and Kier Construction (who generously sponsor them), our school planners are once again available for this academic year. They have the added addition of Mia's wonderful 50th anniversary logo on the front, to mark the schools birthday which was earlier in the year. Whilst the main job of the planner is to detail reading, spelling and SMIRF practice records, they can also be used to record homework tasks and for home-school communication. Class teachers will aim to check each planner at least weekly, so messages will be seen and responded to, but please, if you need a quicker reply, do pop to see the teacher or make a phone call or email to the office (01937 832899, SchoolOffice@riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk)

Eagle eyed year 5 parents will notice their format is different to that in other years. Year 5 staff are trialling a revised version and during the year we will be after some feedback from parents, pupils and staff in order to develop this concept further with key stage 2.

Around now your child's class teacher will have re-launched the pupil SMIRFS (Space Mission Instant Recall Facts in maths). These should be stuck into your child's planner. You should also find in the planner a reminder of your child's login details for the My Maths website from year 1 upwards. We cannot stress highly enough the difference the SMIRFS make with regard maths understanding, progress and fluency!

Music lessons

With musicians from last year's Year 6 having now left for secondary school, we have a few spaces for children who would like music lessons at Riverside. This is paid tuition organised by the County Music Service, with lessons taken in small groups. Current tuition includes guitar, keyboard, woodwind and strings. If you would like to find out more, please contact the School Office.

Contact information



If you have changed address or any contact information over the holidays, please let Mrs Scoot, Mrs Barnes or Mrs Coates at the office know. This is especially important for mobile numbers as these tend to change more frequently and we have already seen how useful the Teachers2Parents text system is for odd occasional snow closures! Please contact:

SchoolOffice@riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk

Some dates for your diaries:

September 2017

Year group information letters home Friday 8th September
Mon 11th Sept Full Governors Meeting 6.30pm
Tues 12th Sept 6pm welcome to year 2 meeting
Weds 13th Sept 6om welcome to year 4 meeting
Thurs 14th Sept 6pm welcome to year 5 meeting
Thurs 14th Sept 6pm welcome to year 6 meeting
Mon 18th Sept 7pm first Friends of School meeting at Magnets Social Club
Mon 18th Sept Urban Strides visit to Key Stage 2
Week 18th - clubs start this week
Thurs 21st September audio screening for year 1
Thurs 21st September y6 Stockbridge visit

October 2017

Mon 2nd and Tues 3rd October - year 3 visits to Ledston (seed dispersal)
Weds 4th October - no pens day!
Thursday 5th October - 10am Harvest Service for pupils
Thursday 5th October Harvest themed lunch
Friday 6th Oct- current EYFS new parents morning—see newsletter for details
Week 9th October - Big Draw event TBC
Reception open morning - Thurs 12th Oct for Sept 18 starters
Thurs 12th and Fri 13th Oct STAR Able Writers group in Play Place
Thurs 12th October individual pupil photos
Thurs 12th October - SEND Parent Support Coffee Afternoon - [click HERE for invite!](#)
Friday 13th October School discos
Monday 16th Oct Full Governors Meeting 6.30pm
Autumn parents evening - Tues 17th and Weds 18th October
Weds 18th Oct KS1 able maths workshop STAR
Close for half-term Friday 20th Oct

Mon 30th Oct term starts for children

Here's to another fantastic year!

Ian Yapp, Headteacher

Interested in becoming a school governor?

If you have a background in an educational setting, and/or you are skilled at data analysis then please get in touch as we currently have vacancies for co-opted governors. All you need to do to be considered is complete the form on the website [HERE](#). Expressions of interest should be sent in to the school office by Friday 15th September and the Chair or Vice-Chair will then be in touch. Full training and support will be available to those new to a governing body role.