



We learn to live...



...and live to learn.



## RIVERSIDE SCHOOL September newsletter

### Welcome to the new Term!

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.

### Our Newsletters

Every year we send our September newsletter out both electronically and by 'pupil post' to start off the year. From here on however, newsletters will be sent out electronically only, on the first Friday of each month during 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. That way, we know our newsletters are not lost in book bags and we maintain our valuable Eco-Credentials!

If you have not received a 'welcome back' text as of yet, don't worry—we are experiencing a few problems with our texting system and some new families have yet to be added. If you have changed mobile over the summer, do please let the admin team know a new number.

### Staffing News

We would like to welcome Mr Philip Jach who joins our Year 2 teaching team, as well as the school Leadership Team as Assistant Headteacher. Just to remind you (and hopefully clarify), our senior structure this year:

Mr Yapp - Headteacher, Riverside and also Executive Headteacher, Saxton

Miss Woodward - Head of School, Riverside

Mr Jach - Assistant Headteacher

We would also like to welcome Mrs Janine Kavanagh to our admin team. Mrs Kavanagh will be working Mondays to Wednesdays in the School Office, alongside Mrs Scoot.

Congratulations to Miss Bishop, who was married over the summer and is now Mrs Crossley.

### 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 insist 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.

### School meals

To remind you that key stage 2 school meals are now costed at £2.30 per meal for pupils in years 3 through to 6. We have managed to negotiate this price for all key stage 2 pupils in the STAR MAT. Similarly, nursery aged pupil meals are priced at £1.70.

Meals for pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 continue to be provided free of charge to families.

Don't forget, menus are always available via our school website, under 'information' and then 'meals and menu,' or you can just click [HERE](#). Our Autumn Term menu was designed following feedback (!) from our pupils and you will spot we now have some standard days, such as pizza being a choice every Monday. We hope this will make your planning a little easier!

For families new to Riverside, to remind you that our catering facility is completely nut free. We have an ever-increasing number of pupils in school with allergic reactions and this move has helped 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.



### 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](#).*

### Charity News

On 16th Sept, Mrs Cowler will be running the Tadcaster 10 mile road race to help raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society (last year's School Council chosen charity). I am sure some of you will want to join in sponsoring Mrs Cowler via her Just Giving Page by clicking [HERE](#).



## Attendance, term time leave and lateness



Our attendance has improved greatly in recent years - it is securely outstanding and in the top 10% nationally for the past 3 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 morning sessions now start 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.**

## Upcoming events

We have recently planned the year's events into the calendar, right through to July 2019 - a copy of this should arrive in your welcome pack and is also available [HERE](#) on the school website. **This has been updated on Thursday this week as we had booked a disco on the same day as a show! (Thank you to the sharp eyed parent who spotted that!)**

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 may not work!

Three dates which may be of immediate interest are 'welcome to our year group' meetings which are planned for the following year groups:

Mon 10th Sept 6pm Welcome to year 2 parents meeting

Tuesday 11th Sept 6pm Welcome to year 4 parents meeting

Weds 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 6pm Welcome to year 6 parents meeting

Thursday 13th Sept 6pm Welcome to year 5 meeting



**On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> 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!

## Contact us

We became an academy on 1<sup>st</sup> May and we have now migrated our email accounts to a new server.

This means that any email addresses you may have used previously for school staff are now VOID.

The school office email is: SchoolOffice@rs.starmat.uk

For more sensitive School Office enquiries please contact Mrs Borradaile our School Business Manager using the admin account: admin@rs.starmat.uk

Should you need to contact Mr Yapp/Miss Woodward directly, the addresses are headteacher@rs.starmat.uk and a.woodward@rs.starmat.uk

All classroom based staff can be contacted via the format:

(First initial).(surname)@rs.starmat.uk for example, should you need to contact Mrs Deakin as our inclusion manager, her address is n.deakin@rs.starmat.uk

Please note that classroom staff have a very busy working day and do not monitor their email during teaching time. Should your contact be urgent (i.e. needs to be seen within 24 hours), please use one of the office addresses or phone us on 01937 832899.



## Planners, SMIRFS and All That!

With great thanks to Hunters, Lambert, Tadcaster Enterprise Park, Glug Glug Glug, Adventure Photography and Kier Construction (who generously sponsor them), our school planners are once again available for this academic 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@rs.starmat.uk](mailto:Schooloffice@rs.starmat.uk))

Following a successful trial in year 5 last year, we have now officially rolled out an upper junior 'variant' of the planner, so our pupils in year 5 and 6 have a different model, which we feel helps prepare the ground for the move to High School.

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!

## Clubs

Our clubs schedule for the autumn term was published in July with most clubs available to book via ParentPay. The schedule is available via the school website under 'information'.

## 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.

## Your Contact information

If you have changed address or any contact information over the holidays, please let Mrs Scoot, Mrs Kavanagh 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@rs.starmat.uk](mailto:schooloffice@rs.starmat.uk)

## Riverside Website

[www.rs.starmat.uk](http://www.rs.starmat.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!

### Some dates for your diaries:

#### **September 2018**

Friday 7th September - year group information letters sent home  
Monday 10th Sept 6pm Welcome to Year 2 parents meeting  
Monday 10th Sept Full Governors Meeting 630pm  
Tuesday 11th Sept TGS presentation to year 6 parents in school hall 6.30pm  
Tuesday 11th Sept 6pm Welcome to year 4 parents meeting  
Wednesday 12th Sept 6pm Welcome to year 6 parents meeting  
Thursday 13th Sept 6pm Welcome to year 5 parents meeting  
Monday 17h Sept pm y9/10 drama students from TGS present 'life in secondary school' to year 6  
Monday 17th Sept 7pm first Friends of School meeting at Tad Magnets  
Week 17th - clubs start this week  
Thursday 20th September TGS year 6 open evening  
Wednesday 26th September Languages Day  
Friday 28th September Friends Puppet Show after school in hall

#### **October 2018**

Wednesday 3rd October - no pens day! (Spoken language and drama)  
Thursday 4th October - 10am Harvest Service for pupils  
Thursday 4th October Harvest themed lunch  
Friday 5th Oct- current EYFS new parents morning in the link  
Friday 5th Oct - y4 Towton Battlefields re-enactment (reserve of 12th Oct)  
Week 8th October - arts event TBC

Monday 8th Oct Full Governors Meeting 6.30pm  
Thursday 11th Oct Reception open morning - for Sept 19 starters  
Thursday 11th Oct STAR Writers group in Play Place  
Thursday 11th October individual pupil photos  
Wednesday 17th Oct KS1 STAR maths workshop  
Friday 19th October School discos 6-6.45pm for EYFS/KS1; 7-8pm for KS2  
Tuesday 23rd Oct y4 Oakwell Hall visit  
Tuesday 23rd Oct AM years Rec to y5 flu vaccinations  
Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th October Autumn parents evenings 3.30-6pm  
Thursday 25th Oct school closes for half-term  
Friday 26th Oct Training day - school closed to pupils

#### **November 2018**

Monday 5th November term starts for children

Here's to another  
fantastic year!

Ian Yapp

Executive Headteacher

Alison Woodward

Head of School

