



We learn to live...



...and live to learn.

RIVERSIDE SCHOOL October Newsletter



We are now very well settled and back into the swing of school life! There is plenty of news to share as we race towards half-term!



Today we celebrated Harvest in school with a lovely service led by Rev Simon Biddlestone.

Thank you to all within our school community for your generous donations, which we will pass on to both local beneficiaries nominated by our families and also to Selby and District Food Bank who distribute produce to those in need locally.

In this way our pupils both make a real difference and also learn what it means to take an active part in charity and support work.

September 2020 Reception classes!

Application for our Reception 2020 classes is now open!

ALL of our Reception 2020 places must be applied for online by Jan 15th 2020. Visit www.northyorks.gov.uk and then click on 'apply, book, pay and report' to apply or just click [HERE!](#) You can apply NOW. If you have any problems, please contact the School Office.

On Wednesday 6th November, we are holding a School Open Evening. Every classroom in school will be open, there will be a presentation for prospective parents along with staff and children on hand to chat when you visit our classrooms.

This exciting new event is aimed at both existing families, so your children have a chance to 'show off' what they are up to, along with those thinking about joining our school, no matter how young their children. We are also planning as part of the open evening:

- Singing by the choir
- A phonics workshop
- Demos of our ICT software
- Tasty samples from the school kitchen

Watch out for further advertising to follow later this month.

Reminders

Please can we remind parents and families about our school uniform policy which includes reference to haircuts. Our policy links in to that of TGS: *Any colouring should be of a naturally occurring tone. The style and length should be sensible and appropriate for school. No shaved haircuts below a 'number two' and no track designs should be shaved.*

Please can we also remind parents that drinks bottles for use in class should only contain water. We have fresh, filtered, chilled water available throughout the day for our pupils.

Lunchtime Supervisors—(MSAs)

We would welcome any applications for

Lunchtime supervisors.

Hours of work are 11.50-1.10 pm and your duties would include assisting the children with their lunch as well as playing and leading games in the playground. If you have some free time, and are interested, please contact the office for an application form—We would love to have you on our team!



Compass Buzz - World Mental Health Day

Thursday October 10th is World mental health day. This year, to mark the day we will be fundraising for Compass Buzz.— every child will be encouraged to perform the kindness challenge- for a small donation, each child will receive a short list of acts of kindness to carry out during the day- if they complete these they will receive a "well-being champion" certificate! This is a fundraiser too so please consider sending in £1 to take part! Compass Buzz are an organisation who support our pupils and families directly, as well as providing training and support for our staff team and promoting mental health and wellbeing across North Yorkshire. All donations are welcome. Thank you!



Let's Draw Together event

Over the last few years, Riverside School has taken great delight in joining in with a "Let's Draw Together" event, with more than 450 pupils each year creating masterpieces in chalk on our playgrounds. This year our theme is 'Make Your Mark For The Future' with a great chance to illustrate some of our environmental themes and issues—get thinking kids!

We intend to mark the event on **Wednesday 9th October.**

We will hold a special whole school assembly and then go outside chalking on the playgrounds during morning break (this might need to change if the weather is unsuitable) - the 'chalk challenge' is to draw the eco-friendly world of the future. **We are inviting YOU to come and join us to draw with the children in their classrooms from 2.45pm to the end of the school day.** Each class will be open with pupils using various media to create their pictures. It would be great to have lots of parents come down and share the experience, working alongside the children. **Please come through the usual classroom entrances to go your child's class.**

Application for secondary school

Just to remind our Year 6 families that applications for secondary places need to be made online by the **end of this month.**

Visit www.northyorks.gov.uk and then click on the 'apply, book, pay and report links' on the front page or just click [HERE.](#) You can apply NOW! All families must apply online, there is no automatic promotion from Riverside to Tadcaster Grammar!



Parents Evenings

We have scheduled our first parent-teacher consultation evenings this year to take place on Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd October, with appointments on both days available from 3.30-6.00pm. Please do take the opportunity to meet with your child's new class teacher if possible. Please note 1DD appts will be with Mrs Denham on Tuesday & Mrs Deakin on Wednesday, RRW appts will be with Miss Woodward on Tuesday and Mrs Robin on Wednesday.

Remember to book your appointment you will need to use our online communication and payment system, ParentMail. Letters have been issued specifically notifying about Parents Evening Bookings.

Bookings will open at 7am on Monday 7th October and close on Monday 21st October at 9am. Book soon!

If separated families require more than one booking, please contact the School Office directly.

As part of these evenings, staff will discuss with you:

How your child is settling from both school and parent perspective

Where your child 'is at' and where staff hope they will be by the end of year allowing for realistic but challenging targets; progress hoped for

Current areas being addressed

Whether your child is part of any extra focus groups and what these are for, including a discussion around your child's Individual Provision Map if they are on the school's SEND register

The 'effort' they are putting into their schooling

How you, as parents, can support your child

Check on any relevant health details we should be aware of

Staff will also share with you, and you will be able to take home, a target setting sheet which your child will have agreed with their teacher during a one-to-one pupil progress discussion in class. Alongside the Parents Evening booking letter, you should also receive a 'notes' sheet. This sheet is also available [HERE](#). This is entirely optional and for your use only, but it may help you jot down any questions or comments and help remind you of conversations with staff throughout the year.

Friends Events



Several exciting Friends events are coming soon - all dates are on the website via the 'Calendar' tab:

The Friends AGM is on Monday 7th October at 7.00pm in the staffroom - all welcome - please use Office entrance—drinks and nibbles provided!

Our Autumn disco is on Friday 18th October, 6-6.45pm for infants and 7-8pm for juniors. Early Years pupils are welcome to the infant event, though parents are encouraged to stay. Nursery parents **MUST** stay! Juniors should **NOT** arrive early and expect to attend the infant disco with their siblings, we simply don't have the capacity! £1 entry with refreshments and various 'glow in the dark' gifts on sale. Our discos this term are HALLOWEEN THEMED so come in fancy dress! Entrance is via the 'Courtyard Room' at the end of the school courtyard, just off the main playground. Collection via a responsible adult only via the same doors — children are not allowed to leave the building unaccompanied!

Our school bonfire and fireworks event will take place on Saturday 9th November. This is a major event in our calendar, we really hope EVERYONE will come down - more details via the Friends Newsletter.

Flu vaccinations - reminder to register your child

On 4th November, all of our pupils from reception through to year 6 are eligible to have a flu vaccination at school via the North Yorkshire vaccination team.



Don't forget you **MUST** give consent online for this to happen

See our information letter [here](#).

Cyber Safety

Whilst it is still quite early in the academic year, we thought we would remind you about cyber safety.



On the school website [HERE](#), there is a great deal of information about how we work with pupils, the resources we use and how you can help to keep your child safe online.

Quick link!— click [here](#) to see our Menu for the Autumn term 2019

Shopping at Aldi? If you spend £30 or more don't forget to get your 'free kit' sticker and send it in to school!

Drop off and collection arrangements

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 and counting as UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE at 9.10am!



On rainy days we try and open doors a little earlier with infants going directly to class and juniors (y3 upwards) congregating in the hall until bell-time). When it is wet, please try and time your journey such as to minimise waiting time outside in the rain!

Thank you for working with us during September as we implemented a few minor changes to our collection arrangements—they have settled in well and impacted positively on both congestion and the ease with which we can 'handover' pupils at the end of the day, given we have a large school and a great many parents arriving on site to collect, this is always tricky to get right and a positive experience for all involved!

To confirm our current arrangements:

Nursery aged pupils: individual one-to-one handover at session end in the nursery indoor foyer (press bell to gain access)

Reception classes: please gather in the reception playgrounds ready for children to exit from classroom fire doors for one-one handover—please stand well back so that staff and pupils can spot those coming to collect. Exit at 3.20pm

Year one: both year one classes exit through the infant courtyard doors with staff managing one to one handover. Exit at 3.20pm

Year two: year two classes exit via the classroom fire exits—please gather at the fence lines where you can be clearly seen. Exit at 3.20pm

Year three: 3SC exit from their fire door into the main playground area for collection; 3JA exit from their fire door and can be collected from the wall by 3SC. Exit at 3.25pm

Year four: Year 4 exit from the main courtyard doors to be collected in the courtyard, supervised by staff. Exit at 3.25pm

We would also like to remind year 3/4 parents that children MUST be collected from the designated areas in our school playgrounds/courtyard areas at home-times and that Year 3/4 children are not generally allowed to walk to the carpark or walk home unaccompanied unless by prior discussion with Mr Yapp or Miss Woodward.

Years 5 and 6: by the time our pupils reach 'upper juniors' we want to help them develop independence and in effect trust that they will sensibly leave their classrooms and independently walk to meet parents on the playground, in the carpark area or indeed, where parents prefer, walk home. Our staff supervise classroom exit, and we always check playground areas for any pupils left unattended. If you feel your child is not ready for this level of independence, then just let us know and your y5/6 pupil will be personally handed across as with other year groups. We reserve the right to implement this from the school perspective also, should we consider it necessary. Exit at 3.25pm

The same rules as above apply for after-school clubs also.

If your child is being collected by a different adult, please either notify staff via the planner or phone the School office, if this is a change through the day to your normal arrangements. As part of our collecting routines, we are unable to release children with any unfamiliar adults so please don't be offended if we contact you to check at hometime. Thank you. We have slight variations in start and finish times as above to allow families a little time to move between entrances and exits on our large site. As with so many other areas of school life, we welcome feedback and constantly strive to improve!

UCI world championships

During September we were delighted to welcome some visitors from the UCI World Cycling Championship to talk to our y5 pupils about the events, with 1982 World Champion Mandy Bishop answering lots of our pupils Q and A— a real privilege.



MAT Assessment Policy

This academic year, the STAR Multi-Academy Trust have introduced a new Primary Assessment Policy. All of the primary schools in the trust have switched our assessment tests to a major national supplier (PUMA and PIRA) following wide ranging research. We have also aligned our assessment activities to the week immediately after each half term holiday. The most significant element of our assessment remains as day-to-day ongoing teacher assessment, and during these test weeks the pupils in years 1 to 6 will sit just one 30 minute reading test and one 30 minute maths test. The tests will be used to inform our teacher assessments and of course will be one of the things which we discuss and report on during the year.

Please do try and avoid any pupil absence leave requests during the assessment weeks.

Please check your child's clothes regularly—names often fade in the wash! Help us to keep our lost property boxes empty—NAME EVERY ITEM that comes in to school.

Halfterm holiday fun!



A reminder that our Holiday Club (The Play Place) will be open throughout half-term and is now taking bookings. The booking form is available from the 'Clubs' section of the website - click on information and follow the 'Clubs' link or just click [here](#) - ring 01937 832899 for further details. The club is open for pupils from Nursery to y6.

Please could we also take this opportunity to remind families using the Play Place that the stated end times are the latest at which a child should leave the premises and beyond this point (as with most childcare providers), a late collection fee is payable.

On Friday 4th October we would like to invite parents of pupils who have just joined Reception and Nursery to join us in the Link from 9.30am 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!

Photos

On school photography day, **Thursday 10th October**, the timetable for our photographer will be:

8.15am - 9.00am, out-of-school sibling groups only. This is a chance for your school children to have their photograph taken with their younger or older sibling(s) who do not attend our school. The session will finish promptly at 9am so please arrive early to avoid disappointment.

9.00am - 3.15pm, individual and in-school sibling photographs.



Contact us

The school office email is: SchoolOffice@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 Other staff addresses are similarly formatted. 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.

Many parents are connected to our 'Dojo' system to receive notifications of class rewards. Please do not use the Dojo system to try to contact staff as incoming messages are not monitored. Please use the office or staff email addresses.

If you receive a phonecall from us, please don't use 'ringback'! We dial out from our fax line - please use 01937 832899 to ring in to school.

ParentMail

Don't forget to register with ParentMail for school communications, payment, bookings and more! It is free to use. In just a few days, the Teachers2Parents texting system will be switched off, and ParentMail is **VITAL** to get up to the minute news! If you need help registering, please contact the office on 01937 832899.

Dates this term

October 2019

Mon 7th October 7pm at school – Friends AGM

Weds 9th October – Let's Draw Together Art day

Thurs 10th October World Mental Health Day

Thurs 10th October individual pupil photos

Fri 11th October Year 4 Towton Battle re-enactment

Thursday 17th October Tadcaster Football Tournament for teams in y5/6

Friday 18th October School discos

Tues 22nd Oct 1.30pm TGS perform Annie to Riverside students TBC

Tues 22nd and Weds 23rd October—Autumn parents evening

Thursday 24th Oct School closes for half-term holidays

Training day Fri 25th Oct – school closed to pupils

November 2019

Mon 4th November term starts for children

Monday 4th November – flu vaccinations years Rec-6

Thank you for your continued support!

Ian Yapp

Headteacher

Alison Woodward

Deputy Headteacher

