



RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday 4th December 2015

Here we are rapidly approaching the end of term and there is lots more to share - including a packed Christmas calendar!

I must also make a start on my Christmas shopping!!

Parent Governor elections

Thank you to those parents who were nominated for the recent Parent Governor election process and to all of those parents who cast their vote. Deb Hastie has been elected as Parent Governor. Full details of the current Governing Body are detailed on the school website.

Staffing update

As parents will be aware, Mrs Rodwell is leaving Riverside at the end of this term. We wish her all the very best for the future after many years of outstanding service at Riverside. Governors have recently successfully completed the recruitment process for a new member of staff to join Miss Hunter, teaching Mondays and Tuesdays in the Year 1 job share. We are currently confirming start dates as unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, there may need to be some interim cover. More news as soon as possible. Whatever happens, we will take steps to ensure the very best continuity for pupils in 1RH.

STAR website



I am sure parents will be aware that Riverside is part of the Sherburn, Tadcaster and Rural (STAR) Alliance of schools. This benefits the school in many and various ways. STAR now has a website, <http://starlearningalliance.org/>, where you can find out more. You can also click on the logo above or on the bottom of our school website homepage.

Sex and Relationship Education

We are currently reviewing and updating the school's SRE policy. It has been approved by governors and is now in the process of being looked at by a small focus group of parents. It is due to be completed this term and full information will be available on the website in January. We will, of course, welcome your views and comments on this sensitive area of the curriculum.

Tadcaster Sportive

10th April 2016 will see Tadcaster host the inaugural 'Sportive' cycling event. Part of the activity for the day will be hosted at Riverside School, hopefully including children's cycle challenges, a climbing wall and more. Entry forms and further details via the Cyclesense website, www.cyclesense.co.uk. This event supports Martin House Hospice with £5 from each entry going to the charity.

Emergency closure information

As usual at this time of year I need to let you know our emergency closure procedures as we never know what the great British weather will throw at us!

Should weather be poor and we need to pass on information, this will normally be done via three routes:

1. The 'scrolling marquee' at the bottom of the website home page will be updated.
2. Text messages to those of you who have up-to-date numbers on file.

3. BBC Radio York - both via announcements on air and their website.

Wherever possible we will attempt to remain fully open, but we have the safety of all site users to consider and at times may need to shorten the school day, close to certain classes, or even close completely.

(If you have a mobile but have not been receiving messages, you may wish to update your information with the school



office.)

Whilst on this theme, please DO ensure your child has appropriate coat, hat, gloves, wellies, etc for the prevailing weather conditions - children need a fresh air break and we try and get out for at least part of a playtime unless the weather is awful (please ensure all items are named).

Children In Need and other charity news



Children in Need

Friday 13th November saw us mark Children In Need day in school with some fantastic fundraising. Thank you for sending the children so resplendent as heroes!

Also, big thanks to our Year 6 pupils for all their hard work in the afternoon co-ordinating dozens of stalls. A wonderful total of **£1200** was raised for Children In Need.

Thank you also for our lovely filled and decorated cups for Candlelighters - supporting children with cancer and their families (<http://www.candlelighters.org.uk>). Candlelighters came in yesterday to talk to our pupils in assembly about what their charity does. The Christmas tree in the hall is starting to look quite magnificent and I am sure we are heading towards another super charity donation.

TORCH

As part of our focus on the UN Convention's rights and responsibilities we will be talking about the 'right to shelter' during the KS2 assembly on Monday 7th December. Jason Angus, who runs the York based TORCH (<https://www.facebook.com/TorchYork/>) will be coming in to talk with the children about how he helps out the homeless people in the area. He works alongside agencies such as SASH, Arclight, Carecent and York Council to collect and distribute basic everyday items to homeless people. His work really makes a difference and he is hoping to extend it to Leeds. We would like to do our bit in helping out the homeless people in our area this Christmas and it would be fantastic if you can help us by donating small items from the list below. Please send in any donations to school by Wednesday the 16th of December.

What we need:

Toiletries: shower gel/shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, towel, deodorant.

Cold weather clothing: coats, jumpers, jeans, hats, gloves, scarves.

Thank you in advance.

Christmas events



Reminders for Christmas events:

Thursday 10th December will be Christmas dinner in school - with a special 'dress Christmassy day' - Christmas jumpers, reindeer antlers, Santa hats, etc. £1 donation with 50% going to our chosen Christmas charity this year and 50% to FOR funds. **If your child will be taking Christmas dinner on Thursday 10th and you have not let us know already, please notify the School Office as a matter of urgency (BY Monday 7th), or your child will miss out!**

Menu changes because of Christmas dinner being on 10th Dec - Tues 8th will be chicken dinner and Weds 9th will be spaghetti Bolognese. All veg options etc as per menu.

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) are performing jointly this year with narration and songs. These will take place on Monday 14th Dec at 1.45pm and Tuesday 15th Dec at 10.00am. The shows will last about 20-30 minutes and parents and grandparents are invited back to classrooms with their child afterwards for some Christmas activities.

Tuesday 15th December will see Key Stage 2 off to the panto - replies are now overdue - please send any further replies as a matter of urgency! The Reception classes would like to invite parents to celebrate Christmas with them at the end of Tuesday 15th December (please note the **change of date**) in the hall from 2.45pm with a range of Christmas songs and some tasty refreshments.

Parties take place on Wednesday 16th December for all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 - what an exciting day! For Key Stage 1, the school lunch menu will essentially be a party 'spread' with pizza, sausages, jam sandwiches, carrot and cucumber sticks and ice-buns! We are also asking for a few additional party lunch items including drinks - please look at the suggestions on the lists outside your child's classroom and sign up if you would like to send something additional in. Your child can come to school in party clothes or dress up as they wish. There will also be a very special visitor (big red coat...) to meet the children at the end of this day!



Key Stage 2 will share their Christmas songs and narration in St Mary's Church on Weds 16th Dec at 1.45pm and on Thurs 17th Dec at 10am. The doors at St Mary's will be open from 1pm on Wednesday and 9.15am on Thursday - please do not be late as this is a church service and late arrivals do disrupt the children and the atmosphere in the church. Because we are a growing school and with limited space in the church, please can I urge families to only attend one of the Key stage 2 services.



All of our Nativity and Christmas Service collections will support the Candlelighters Charity.

Christmas in the Nursery - please come and join your child in Nursery for "Christmas family day" on Friday 18th December. We will have all our Christmas activities set up for you and your child to play together, including a roleplay 'Santa's grotto' in the home corner. You are welcome to stay for as long or short a time as you wish. For the last 15 minutes of both morning and afternoon sessions we will sing some favourite songs to you. If your child doesn't usually attend on this day, you are welcome to bring them along and stay with them. The activities will be available to all children over the last two weeks of term.

Pumps!

Thank you to all of our families for adhering to our indoor shoes policy - it makes a real difference to the hygiene and cleanliness in our school. At the end of this term, every child will be asked to bring their pumps home,

so that you can check they still fit and are in good enough condition to make a smart start to 2016! A new pair could always be a fantastic Christmas present! Don't forget that the School Council organise a very popular pump painting scheme - for £1.50 your child can make their pumps stand out from the others and design their own unique patterns!

Next term's clubs

Main clubs should recommence week beginning 11th January - watch out for booking forms later this term, as well as on the school website. We hope for a few exciting new additions to our Spring programme!

Some dates for your diaries:

December 2015

Mon 7th Dec Provisional Presents for Parents
Thurs 10th Dec Christmas lunch and Christmas outfit day!
Fri 11th Dec Ainsty Carols for KS2 1.30pm
Fri 11th Dec Christmas disco organised by Friends of Riverside
Mon 14th Dec PM and Tues 15th Dec AM Key Stage 1 shows
Tues 15th Dec 2.45pm Reception parents invited to hall for Christmas songs
Weds 16th Dec PM and Thurs 17th Dec AM Key Stage 2 services at church
Weds 16th KS1 Party day and Santa in school
Fri 18th Dec Sherry and Mince Pies AM
Fri 18th Dec Nursery family activity day
Fri 18th Dec Term closes

January 2016

Mon 4th Jan Training Day
Tuesday 5th January 2016 Term starts
Fri 8th Jan Year group letters out
Tues 12th Jan School Improvement Governors Committee

February 2016

Fri 5th Feb School Discos
Fri 12th Feb 2.30pm 4TT brass concert
Fri 12th Feb Valentine's Day lunch
Fri 12th Feb Half term finishes
Monday 22nd Feb Term starts

Have a very merry Christmas and a peaceful start to 2016.

Ian Yapp
Headteacher



Hot off the press- Spring 2016 menu now available via the 'newsletters' page of our website