



RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday 2nd October 2015

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

Year 5 Cycle Training



For the last few years we have been delighted to offer two days cycle training to every Year 5 pupil through the NYCC Bikeability Scheme. This will again be on offer this academic year for our Year 5 pupils, during the weeks of 27th June and 4th July 2016. More details much later in the year. I am letting you know now, in case you are considering buying a bike in the near future. Please also note that entry into the programme requires stable riding whilst indicating and looking back - there is still plenty of time to practise! If you are after a reasonably cheap refurbished bike, either for yourself or your child, Tadcaster Grammar School have some for sale at good prices. Ask us for contact details! I have placed the 'bike checklist' on the Year 5 page of the website for your information, as all bikes have to pass a safety and suitability check before they are used in this training.

Dropping off and collection arrangements

To clarify dropping off and collection arrangements.

Mornings:

Early Years: Main doors open at 8.45am for Nursery parents. Reception parents are welcome to wait in the cloakroom areas until classroom doors open around 8.50am. **Please note** - the door between The Link and Early Years will be closed until main Key Stage 1 (KS1) doors open at 8.50am. This is to ensure that children do not arrive unsupervised by an adult into our KS1 areas.

Key Stage 1: Main doors open at 8.50am

Key Stage 2: Children should not arrive before 8.30am when our morning playground supervision begins - the bell will be rung at 8.55am for entry into classes.

Hometimes:

- Reception - Children leave through fire exits into Reception playground. Please can parents wait near the playground fence- we will only let the children go once we spot you!
- Year 1 - Children leave through corridor doors into the courtyard. Please can parents come into the courtyard and within sight of the doors as children will wait inside with staff until parents are spotted!
- Year 2 - Children leave through class fire exits. Please can parents wait near the fence around the Year 2 outdoor area.
- Years 3 and 4 - Children leave through corridor into courtyard.
- Years 5 and 6 - Children leave through the rear doors and walk around towards the playground

NB. Only Years 3-6 are allowed to walk up to the car park without parents, should parents so decide. Can I also remind parents that Tower Crescent is PRIVATE property and should not be used for school parking and that the main driveway and parking to the northern edge of the site is reserved for staff and deliveries only.

Please also note that the climbing walls and 'trim trail' wooden play equipment should not be used before or after school.

Photos

On school photography day, Friday 16th October, the timetable for our photographer will be:

8.00am - 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.

3.30pm - 4.00pm, informal family groups.

Parents Evenings

We have scheduled our first parent-teacher consultation evenings this year to take place on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st October, with appointments on Tuesday from 3.30-6.30pm and on Wednesday from 3.30-5.00pm. Please do take the opportunity to meet with your child's new class teacher if possible. Appointment letters are being finalised at the time of writing this! 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 dealt with*
- *Whether your child is part of any extra focus groups or is 'more able' and in what respect*
- *The 'effort' they are putting into their schooling*
- *How you, as parents, can support your child*
- *Check on any relevant health details etc*

As with last year, 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.

Last year we also introduced a 'notes' sheet, which was well received. Attached to your appointment booking letter, this is entirely optional and for your use only, but may help you jot down any questions or comments and help remind you of conversations with staff throughout the year. Spare copies are available 'electronically' on the Key Information/Policies section of our website.

Friends Events



Several exciting Friends events are coming soon - all dates are on the website, in Useful Forms and Dates on the Key Information page:

- The Friends AGM is on Monday 12th October at 7.00pm in the staffroom - all welcome
- Our Autumn disco is on Friday 16th 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 just 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!

- Our school bonfire and fireworks event will be on Saturday 7th November. This is a major event in our calendar, we really hope EVERYONE will come down - more details via the friends of school.

Parent workshop

We are holding a parents workshop on Wednesday 4th November starting at 6.30pm. This year's theme will be Home Learning. You will be able to find out how to help your child with writing, the MyMaths website and SMIRFs, phonics and topic areas at home. Please do try and come along. There are sessions running for Early Years, Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2) and Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6). Each session is around 45 minutes in length and will run at 6.30pm and 7.15pm giving parents a chance to attend more than one session. Watch out for the flier over the coming few days.

News - visit the 'links for parents' page on our website to find out how to get the MyMaths website to work on your tablet.

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 'education and learning' and 'school admissions' to apply. You can apply NOW!

Coffee and a chat for the parents of new starters



If you have a child who has recently started at school and would like the opportunity to get together with other parents, meet new people and have a chat, we are holding a coffee morning in The Link on Friday 6th November from 9am. Mr Yapp, Miss Woodward and Mrs Brown-Bolton (our infant Learning Mentor) will be there, alongside our school nurse - there will be lots of information about childcare and activities in your local area and a chance to ask any questions you may have. We would love to see you!

September 2016 Reception classes!

On Wednesday 7th October 9.15-11.00am we are holding an Open Morning for ALL families considering Reception places for their child for September 2016. Whether you know the school well, or have your first child coming through Nursery, come along and have a tour and ask us lots of questions!

ALL of our Reception 2016 places must be applied for online by Jan 15th 2016. Visit www.northyorks.gov.uk and then click on 'education and learning' and 'school admissions' to apply. You can apply from 31st October. If you have any problems, please contact the School Office.

The Big Draw



Over the last two years, Riverside School has taken great delight in joining in with the Big Draw event, with more than 450 pupils each year creating masterpieces in chalk on our playgrounds. This year the theme is 'Every Picture Tells a Story' and we intend to mark the event on Monday 19th October. We will start with a special whole school assembly then chalking on the playgrounds during morning break (this might need to change if the weather is unsuitable!). Finally we want to try something even more ambitious. We are inviting YOU to come and join us to draw with the children in their classrooms from 2.50pm to the end of the school day. Each class

will be open with pupils using various media to create pictures which will then be used as a stimulus for writing over the following days. It would be great to have lots of parents come down and share the experience, working alongside the children. Just turn up at the usual classroom entrances.

Requests for help from our pupils

Our School Council have asked if we can collect items needed by the refugees in Calais. We have found out that the things they need most are: winter/waterproof coats, gloves, scarves, hats, trainers and wellies. These are for men, women or children. The School Council are therefore asking if you have any of these things at home which you could spare please bring them into school so that we can send them on to the camps in Calais. Some of our pupils are even embarking on a 'hair wrapping' fund raising enterprise to raise funds towards the transport costs.

If you would like to donate, please bring items into school any day next week (Mon 5th to Fri 9th Oct) and place them in the storage boxes near the benches in the corner of the hall.

Also, just to remind you that Riverside School recycles used batteries - recycling points are available inside each main entrance point.

Holiday Club

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 'newsletters' page of our website - ring 01937 832899 for further details.

Infection control

Please could I draw your attention to advice with regard 'communicable diseases' which is available on the school website under 'help for my child or family.' In that advice it is stated that pupils should take 48 hours away from their peers following an episode of sickness or diarrhoea to ensure that any sickness/infection is not spread. This is vital for the wellbeing of all our pupils and staff including some very young and vulnerable children.

Some Dates For Your Diaries:

October 2015

Tues 6th Oct School Improvement Governors Committee
Weds 7th Oct Reception open morning - for sept 16 starters
Weds 7th Oct Y4 provisional date for Towton Battle re-enactment
Weds 7th Oct 6.30pm Year 6 residential Parents Briefing
Week 12th Oct World Food Week—various activities in school
Mon 12th Oct Full Governors Meeting
Fri 16th Oct World Food Day lunch
Fri 16th Oct Individual photos
Fri 16th Oct School Discos
Tues 20th and Weds 21st October Autumn parents evenings
Tues 20th 4TT Oakwell Hall visit
Weds 21st 4WC Oakwell Hall visit
Weds 21st and Thurs 22nd Oct y6 Able writers workshop in Play Place
Fri 23rd Oct School closes for half-term

November 2015

Mon 2nd Nov Term starts for children
Weds 4th Nov Menu change - chicken korma
Thurs 5th Nov Bonfire Lunch - pizza; sticky toffee pudding
Fri 6th Nov Current Nursery/Reception new starters coffee morning.

Thank you for your continued support.

Tom Yapp

Headteacher

STAR



ALLIANCE