



RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Thursday 10th September 2015

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 our new starters in other year groups.

This newsletter has been sent out by hand to start off the year and to remind you that, from hereon, 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, 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, we will soon be launching a new, improved site with additional features such as pupil blogs, subscriber emails, Twitter feeds and so on. Watch for more news soon! 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 Key Information page.

Staffing update

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

We welcome Mr Will Calvert to our teaching staff in Year 4 and welcome back Miss Hunter from maternity leave and to a job share in Year 1 alongside Mrs Rodwell.

Welcome to Miss Hey who joins our teaching assistant team. During the summer term, a selection process saw Miss Woodward successfully appointed as Deputy Headteacher alongside Miss Elmy. Whilst the two deputies have their own distinct role, parents are welcome to approach either deputy in my absence.

Congratulations to Miss Symons who has married over the summer and become Mrs Wade!

School meals

School meals remain £2.10 per meal for junior school pupils, £1.60 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.

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!

Attendance, termtime leave and lateness



Our attendance has improved greatly in recent years - it is now outstanding. Thank you for your help with this. Please do not forget that schools are no longer allowed to authorise any leave for holiday during termtime. Leave of absence for pupils (beyond 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 nine 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. From this term, attendance expectations have gone up, and as such, it is a statutory requirement for any pupil with less than 90% attendance (previously 85%) to be reported on to the Education Welfare Service.

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!
- For those pupils who showed attendance or punctuality concerns last academic year, I am in the process of writing out to families, since school has a duty to track and improve any pupil whose attendance falls below 90% (we would like all pupils above 95%)

Don't forget, we operate FIRST DAY OF ABSENCE contact arrangements - if your child is absent for any reason we would like to hear from you on the very first day they are off. 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. **We would be grateful to receive all such absence notifications by 11am at the latest.**

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.

School site

The school site has been very busy over the summer with several areas of maintenance and improvement work having taken place:

- Upgrades to outside lighting ready for the autumn nights;
- Repairs to steps and flagstones in the courtyard;
- Redecoration of areas of our Portakabins;
- Repairs and redecoration of various fences around school; and
- Complete refurbishment of toilet facilities in Years 3 and 4.

Clubs

Also available around now is the timetable for this term's clubs. Most clubs start in the week of 21st September. Please ensure your replies are received at the School Office as a matter of urgency. The clubs' timetable is also available via the school website and on the school courtyard display board.

I am delighted that our 'family' of schools continues to offer some subsidy for out-of-school activities, for those in receipt of Pupil Premium, via the Family of Schools Fund. Enquiries to the Office for this fund please.

Up and coming events

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



For those of you with compatible smartphones, tablets and PCs, we again offer a downloadable school calendar. This contains all of the school dates so you can set up alerts to remind you! A link to this download is available on the 'calendar' page of our website.

Planners, SMIRFS and All That!

With great thanks to Hunters, Lambert, the Commer Group 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 to the office.

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.

Music lessons

With some Year 6 musicians 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.

Design a Duck

Saturday 26th Sept will see Tad Pool hold their annual Duck Race at 2pm. Your child can enter the Design a Duck Competition - make it as wild, wacky and wonderful as you can and write name and school on the back. Entry templates from the racks at each of the entrances and to return to the school office by 18th Sept please.

2016 Year 6 residential

Just to remind parents of pupils in Year 6 that deposit letters for the Wales residential in 2016 were circulated last term (additional copies from Year 6 page of website or the School Office). The Parent Information Evening will be on Weds 7th Oct at 6.30pm with all deposits due no later than 23rd Oct please.

Contact information



If you have changed address or any contact information over the holidays, please let Mrs Marshall 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! Please contact:

admin2@riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk

Some dates for your diaries:

September 2015

Friday 11th Sept Year group information letters home
Mon 14th Sept 7pm First Friends of School meeting
Tues 15th Sept - TGS presentation for Y6 families for Sept 16 starters - at Tadcaster East School
Weds 16th Sept 5-5.45 Welcome to Year 3 parents meeting
Fri 18th Sept FOR quiz night
Mon 21st Sept Resources Governors Committee Meeting
Week 21st - Clubs start this week
Tues 22nd Sept - Y6 Stockbridge Centre visit
Weds 23rd Sept - Able maths AM for group of infant pupils
Thurs 24th Sept TGS open evening

October 2015

Thurs 1st October Harvest service for pupils and lunch
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
Tues 20th and Weds 21st October Autumn parents evenings
Fri 16th Oct World food day lunch
Fri 16th Oct Individual photos
Fri 16th Oct School Discos
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 Close for half-term

November 2015

Mon 2nd Nov term starts for children

Here's to another fantastic year!

Ian Yapp, Headteacher

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