

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday 5th February 2016



Wet mornings



Not sure we have really seen the back of Winter yet, but with Spring usually being inclement to say the least, please can I take this opportunity to reinforce a few important weather related messages:

- Ensure your child has weather appropriate clothing - especially footwear - wellies are great and not just for little ones!
- If your child is the type who always seems to get themselves wet and messy consider sending in extra clothes.
- Remember, we insist on a change of indoor shoes - if your child does not have these, he/she will end up in socks. (Of course, we do sell pumps in school!)
- Ensure ALL clothing items are name-labelled.
- Do not allow your child to arrive too early on inclement mornings as we do not have room for more than 400 pupils before the teaching day starts. On wet days we open doors at 8.45am with Key Stage 1 going into classes and Key Stage 2 into the hall. **On wet days, therefore, it is important that children DO NOT arrive before 8.45am, so, if needed, delay your start on a wet day! If wet, all pupils arriving by school buses will be accommodated indoors.**

Consultation evenings

Some early notice that next half-term we have two parent-teacher consultation evenings, on Tuesday 1st March from 3.30-6.00pm and Wednesday 2nd March from 3.30-5.00pm.

Appointment booking forms will follow soon, but please mark these dates in your diaries. As ever, at Riverside, our parent-teacher evenings are highly focused around pupil progress. At these evenings we will be concentrating on:

- Progress made since the beginning of year
- Progress on targets discussed at last parents' meeting
- Reasons for progress or otherwise
- Successes and areas for improvement
- Suggested targets for the end of the year
- Steps to get there and how you can help at home with areas such as maths and reading

You will also receive a copy of your child's targets which you will be able to take away with you. These will have been previously discussed and agreed between your child and their teacher in school. You may also wish to bring along the previously circulated Parents' Evenings 'notes sheet' - copies available from our website on the Key Information page under Useful Forms and Dates.

NB Because of a clash with an important piece of STAR Alliance training, parent-teacher consultations with Mr Hunt, Mrs Cowler and Mrs Needham will take place on Monday 1st March 3.30-6.00pm and Wednesday 3rd from 3.30-5.00pm.
Our School Bookfair will be open throughout Parents' Evenings.

Notifying pupil absence

As I am sure you are aware, classroom registers are now marked straight to our main computer system. It is vital that every incidence of pupil absence is properly coded - this can only

be done once we hear from parents. If your child is absent, for any reason, you can let us know in the following ways:

- Email us at admin@riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk
- Ring 01937832899 and leave us a message
- Write your child's teacher a note
- Let your child's teacher or our admin team know in person

We are not able to accept verbal reasons from pupils. If we do not hear within two weeks of an absence we do mark those sessions as 'unauthorised absence'. You will also be aware that from September 2013, unauthorised absence (including when parents take unauthorised holidays) is subject to penalty notice fining procedures. I am delighted that last academic year saw our overall attendance at 97.2%, which is an amazing achievement. Thank you.

Read For My School

Key Stage 2 children should now all have usernames and passwords so that they can enter the Read For My School competition. This year they are able to read using I-pads, Kindle Fire, computers or print versions of books. The competition has been extended and now runs until the middle of April. Children can win personal and school prizes as well as enjoying a huge range of texts. Please contact class teachers if you are having any difficulties logging in at www.readformyschool.co.uk.

Safer Internet Day



9th February is Safer Internet Day. In this age of mobile devices and 24/7 access to communication it is vital that pupils are educated to stay safe online at both home and school. Of course this is part of our ongoing school curriculum. If you would like to know more about helping your child stay safe online, setting up parental controls, limiting access to social media and so on, then there is some super advice and support available via: <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers>.

Could we also remind parents that we do not encourage children to bring 'smart watches' to school as they are valuable items and also must not be used to capture still images or video during the school day - thank you for your support!

Social networking - annual reminder

The following is a general statement on social media issued by North Yorkshire:

'Parents of children in North Yorkshire schools are increasingly using social networking sites such as Facebook to talk to their friends. Sometimes parents have used these sites to criticise or make inappropriate comments about schools or even individual teachers. Making defamatory comments on the internet has exactly the same serious legal consequences as if they are made directly to someone else. Legal action could be taken against the person who has made the online comment. Similarly threats of violence can lead to criminal

proceedings under the Malicious Communications Act 1988.

If you have any concerns about anything which happens in school please speak to your child's class teacher or the Headteacher who will do their best to resolve things. If you are still unhappy we have a complaints procedure which will ensure that your concerns are investigated thoroughly and appropriate action taken.'

Thankfully this is a phenomenon which only very rarely affects Riverside. Hopefully this infrequency means we are both getting quite a few things right and where there are concerns you feel able to come and discuss them directly with us. Long may this continue!

Change for Life

Change for Life will soon be sending home pupil packs to help pupils become 'food detectives' and consider more fully what is in the food they eat, whether they are eating a balanced diet and getting all of their 5 a day.

Pedestrian crossing points

Our school site is a very busy one, especially at either end of the day. Our primary concern is to keep our pupils and other pedestrians safe as they move around the grounds. With this in mind, we are commissioning an additional 'crossing point' at the top of the staff drive, to complement that at the top of the drive out of the Visitors' Carpark. Vehicles must give way to pedestrians on these crossing points. Please ensure no parked vehicles obstruct effective use of these crossing points. We are aware that the surface in our Visitor Carpark is particularly poor. We are looking at what can be done to rectify this. Please do take care in the interim - the surface is uneven and in places there is a trip hazard.

Friends events



TODAY sees our annual Valentine's Disco, with infants 6-6.45pm and juniors 7-8pm. All funds raised are going towards the current projects supported by the Friends of Riverside - development of outdoor play environments throughout early years and Key Stage 1 and installation of a computer projection system in the school hall. A room and refreshments will be available for any parents who wish to wait on site, especially thinking of those travelling from the far side of town.

Tad Is Open - community website link



I have created a temporary additional link on our website homepage - a photo of Tadcaster Bridge. When you click on this it will open an additional page with transport updates about the bridge. I am also very happy for this page to host any community information you may feel useful - fliers, discount vouchers, and so on - anything we can do to help keep the town community

connected until the road bridge is re-instated. If you are or know of a business or community group who may be interested in posting information here, please ask them to email school via admin@riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk.

On Sunday 20th March there is a fundraising concert at the Riley Smith Hall, with TGS Big Band performing - we have some tickets for sale and information at the school office - it promises to be a great event.

On the website link via 'the bridge' is the audio clip from Radio York last week, when some of our pupils were interviewed. Have a listen as I expect this link will only be available for a limited period!

Governor survey

Immediately after half-term, your child will bring home a copy of the 2016 Governor Survey. Every response counts, so please try and send in your reply. Please ensure responses are back to school by Friday 4th March so that we can process them. Electronic copies are available NOW on the front page of our website, so that you can consider your response over the holidays - if you prefer to return by email please do this to admin@riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk.

We will collate responses and share the findings with you around Easter time.

Dates To Remember

February 2016

Fri 5th Feb School Discos
Mon 8th Feb Chinese new year lunch
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
Weds 24th Feb KS1 Able Maths AM
Mon 29th Feb Full Governors Meeting

March 2016

Tues 1st and Weds 2nd March Spring parents evenings
Tues 1st - Thurs 3rd March Travelling Books Bookfair
Thursday 3rd March World book day and lunch

Fri 4th March Friends Quiz Night

Weds 9th March Able Writers Day
Thurs 10th March Able Writers Day
Mon 21st March Resources Governors Committee Meeting
Tues 22nd and Weds 23rd March Y3/4 show PM
Weds 23rd March Easter Lunch
Weds 23rd March close for hols
Thurs 24th March Training Day—school closed to pupils

April 2016

Tuesday 12th April Term starts
Thursday 14th April STAR K'bots Challenge Day - change of date

Thank you for your continued support

Ian Yapp

Headteacher

