



Riverside Community Primary School Governor's Newsletter

The STAR Learning Alliance

Dear Parents,

Over many years the primary and secondary schools in the Sherburn and Tadcaster area have worked informally together sharing training, resources and facilities as opportunities arise. It has become clear that our schools will benefit from a more formal system of partnership. Recently, governors and headteachers have carefully explored ways for our schools to work together in a way that goes beyond simple sharing of resources and commits us to a strategic plan of transforming school improvement in our locality. We want to ensure that every child and young person in education in the Sherburn, Tadcaster and surrounding rural areas achieves to the best of their abilities and leaves school fully prepared to play an effective role in society. Riverside is participating in this collaboration, along with all the schools listed below, which will be known as the Sherburn, Tadcaster and Rural Learning Alliance: the STAR Learning Alliance.

Each school will maintain its own unique identity, and will remain governed by its own governing body, but we are creating a formal partnership together to plan and provide the best possible education for all children in our area. At this stage, this involves working together on specific projects, improving communication and coordination, and introducing support, monitoring and challenge between schools.

We are very lucky that our Alliance has such a broad mix of schools, each bringing their own strengths and character to the group. Together we have the scale and the diversity to achieve real benefits for our children. This is an exciting and important opportunity for all the Alliance schools and we will keep you up to date with our progress in the future.

The STAR Alliance Schools:

Appleton Roebuck Primary
Athlestan Community Primary
Barkston Ash Catholic Primary
Brotherton & Byram Community Primary
Kellington Primary
Kirk Fenton CE VC Primary
Long Marston CE VC Primary
Monk Fryston CE VC Primary
Riverside Community Primary

Saxton CE VC Primary
Sherburn High School
Sherburn Hungate Community Primary
South Milford Community Primary
St Joseph's Catholic Primary
Tadcaster East Community Primary
Tadcaster Grammar School
Tockwith CE VC Primary

Overleaf you will find an update on our Spring Parents' Survey – again some really positive moves forward, much of it made possible by Riverside being part of a successful local network of schools – a practical example of how schools can work together to drive improvement.

Parents Survey Update

Parents will, I am sure, remember our wonderfully positive 2014 Parent Survey. To remind you, we were delighted to have so many areas of strength, including:

- How happy our pupils are at school;
- How safe our pupils feel and how well looked after they are at school;
- The quality of teaching and learning taking place and the progress you feel your children make ;
- The behaviour at Riverside;
- How well led and managed you feel the school is; and
- Whether you would recommend Riverside to another family.

There were also a few areas which we promised to look at again. Below is a summary of what we have done.

Key here is that we have reflected on our practice, spoken to staff, governors, parents and pupils and also consulted

with the 14 other local primary schools in our new STAR Alliance. You can therefore rest assured that what we have in

place is 'best practice' locally. We always value feedback, though!

Areas to investigate/develop:	Actions taken and next steps:
Whether pupils receive appropriate homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We consulted with our staff and sampled what homework was being set• We reviewed the latest guidelines available• We looked at educational research to see what impact homework has• We viewed the homework policies of our local network of schools • We used all of the above to create a revised 'Home Learning Policy' which has been out to consultation with our staff – it became a 'best of the best' policy!• This policy is available now on the school website 'key information' page under 'policies' and will be put into effect from September this year
Whether parents receive valuable information about progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We again consulted through our network to see what other schools were doing. Essentially we felt we were doing as much, if not more, than others• We also consulted with our local NYCC school advisor to check if there was anything others were doing • Given that there didn't really seem to be anything missing at present, we have written a 'guide' for parents on the information you can expect to receive and when, which also contains a 'crib sheet' for your notes at parents' evenings.• This is available NOW on our website under 'policies' and will be re-issued, in paper form, in the Autumn Term

If you would like to know more about the Governing Body, full details are included on the school website

www.riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk