



RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Thursday 7th January 2016

A very Happy New Year and welcome back to all our children! As we start another year here at Riverside there is lots to do, as we constantly strive to improve as a school!

Christmas flooding

Our thoughts to all those in the school and wider community who have been affected by the terrible flooding over the holidays. I am delighted to hear of the HUGE community effort which has already taken place to help those in need, though of course there is still so much to be done for those individuals and businesses affected. *On the website 'newsletters' page I have placed some information with regard the E.ON Energy Fund who are offering white goods as part of their flood relief programme to families eligible through certain financial criteria - please do pass this information on to anyone who you think might benefit.*

As parents will be aware, we have managed to secure transport for our pupils from the 'East' of town, so that school can continue as normal. This means that we now have up to 120 pupils travelling on school buses, which I am sure you will appreciate is a considerable piece of logistics. Parents must directly inform the School Office (not classroom staff) if there is any change to your usual bus requirements, so that we can amend registers accordingly. I have already begun a conversation with NYCC about sustaining this transport until a suitable road bridge is in place, even if foot traffic is re-instated.

New starters

URGENT - if your child is eligible to start Reception in September 2016 you MUST apply online for a school place with North Yorkshire County Council by 15th January! Please pass on this message as we expect our Reception classes to be FULL in September. The deadline is just days away! ALL families must formally apply for the school online, even if your child attends our nursery. If unsure, please contact us on 01937 832899. If you intend your child to start Reception in September and you would like them to attend the Play Place (before and after school club), please contact us to place them on the waiting list.

The Play Place

We are delighted to offer The Play Place before and after school club provision as part of our extended schools offer. It is a happy and thriving place!

We have a few spaces available for Friday sessions. The club operates from 7.30-9.00am on a morning and from 3.30-6.00pm on an evening, with sessions costing £4.50 per morning and £7.30 per evening.

Please contact the school office for more details.

Last term I understand the dark and cold evenings saw a few parents arriving for collection after 6pm. Whilst there might on occasion be extenuating circumstances (and when this does happen, please do ring), the normal closure time for the Play Place is 6pm prompt i.e. all pupils must be collected BY this time. Late collection incurs a £5 per pupil charge for each quarter of an hour late, or part thereof.

Starting the new year off in the right way!

We know that we are very privileged at Riverside to have such well-behaved, well-mannered, articulate pupils - it allows for an enthusiastic positive learning environment where we can all have fun and make great progress together.

LOOK SMART - THINK SMART - ACT SMART



Being well-presented, with all the equipment needed for the day, homework complete and ready to learn - these are key ingredients for successful learning. The new year is a perfect time to ensure that everything is well set for the year ahead and we would ask for your continued support in this.

Clubs

Our clubs schedule starts on Monday 11th January. Places are already booking quickly for some of these clubs so please respond ASAP. The clubs schedule was circulated last term and is also available on the 'newsletters' page of our website. ***Specifically, we currently have spaces for our Spanish Club, Key Stage 1 Art Club and the Woodland Warriors.*** If your child is signed up for a club and they cannot attend for any reason (party, doctor's appointment, etc) please notify the school office - our club providers all have a register of attendance and of course get very concerned if a pupil doesn't arrive with them - please help us prevent unnecessary phone calls! If you booked places for your child before the holidays and because of the bridge collapse can no longer facilitate collection from a club, please let us know so that we can free up the club space to another pupil. As indicated on

the club form - if you haven't heard back, please assume your child has successfully gained a place on the club(s) of choice.

Pedestrian Crossing

Please could I take this opportunity to ask parents to pay due regard to the pedestrian crossing on the main road outside school - ensure your exit is clear before moving onto the crossing so that the crossing does not get blocked by stationary traffic. Even if the light changes to flashing amber, please be aware of young children who may step onto the crossing. In any case, please always be aware of young children who may move out into the road. It would also be prudent for all parents to talk to their children about using crossings safely and to look out carefully for traffic and not simply trusting that cars will obey the lights.

We want to keep everyone in our school community safe.

School Office

We are having an additional 'inner layer' of electronic security fitted to the School Office area in the main foyer, to create a 'buffer zone' for visitors, deliveries and such, where they can enter the Office but have no access through to the rest of school. If you come through the hall and wish to visit the Office, you will need to use the buzzer to notify staff who will de-activate the lock to let you through.

Community update

Inspired by our ever active School Council, Christmas saw our pupils collect charitable donations for Candlelighters.



The School Council bought hundreds of cardboard cups with lids, as well as pupil prizes. Our pupils were then challenged to decorate a cup to hang on the school Christmas tree, also filling the cups with the 'pennies' they would save by not sending Christmas cards.

Between our Christmas cups and donations from Christmas concerts, we managed to raise a simply amazing £1786.

The School Council have already pledged to continue to support a pupil called Edmund who lives in Armenia, leaving a HUGE balance of nearly £1500 going to Candlelighters, which will surely make a real difference to their funds.

The last day of term also saw us host more than 100 local people for our annual sherry and mince pie concert.

Judging by the lovely comments I had at the end, this event continues to be very special and well received.

Nursery availability

We have some availability this term for sessions in our nursery. We have just a few sessions still available for lunch club and afternoon sessions. If you would like to discuss the possibility of either extending your offer up to your free 15 hour entitlement, or taking some additional sessions for your child, please contact the school office on 01937 832899 or via admin@riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk. This may help a few 'morning only' pupils to continue to attend Nursery from the 'east' of town and make use of the school transport offer, where spaces are available.

Meals census

As mentioned earlier this academic year, the amount of income we receive for infant school meals is calculated across two meal 'census' days. The first such day was in October. The second is Thursday 21st January. It will make a HUGE difference to our budget if every infant pupil takes a meal on that date as it will count as if they have a meal every day of the year! The menu for the day is a popular favourite - sausages, beans and chips with a jacket potato option, the salad bar and dessert of sticky toffee pudding and custard or fresh fruit and yoghurt. Veggie options as per the main menu for that day. For your information - on the catering menu cycle week 2 Friday is stated as crispy coated goujons - this will be replaced with battered fish throughout the menu cycle.

Quiz Night

Friends Quiz Night is Friday 29th Jan - details and booking form available on the PTA page of our school website. Team entries are due by Monday 11th Jan. A GREAT evening out!

Dates to remember

January 2016

Fri 8th Jan Year group letters out

Tues 12th Jan School Improvement Governors Committee

February 2016

Fri 5th Feb School Discos

Mon 8th Jan Chinese New Year lunch

Fri 12th Jan 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

Thank you for your continued support - here's to another great year!

Ian Yapp
Headteacher

