



We learn to live...



...and live to learn.

## RIVERSIDE SCHOOL September newsletter



### Welcome to the new Term!

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 the many new starters in other year groups.

### Newsletters and ParentMail



Every year we send our September newsletter out both electronically and by 'pupil post' to start off the year. From here on however, newsletters will be sent out electronically only, on the first Friday of each month during term-time. We consider this a vital part of our 'eco-credentials.'

Newsletters, permission letters and a whole host of other communications will be sent via the **ParentMail App**. We would urge every parent to download the app and/or use parentmail on their desktop PC.

You can find out about ParentMail by clicking [HERE](#).

Don't forget that the text messaging service will be turned off later this month, with ParentMail being our chosen route for communications, payments, parents evening bookings etc—ideally we would like 100% take up! Also, unlike the Teachers2Parents text service, more than one parent/family member can receive communications through ParentMail. You can also use ParentMail to inform us of pupil absence.

### 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.*

*Can we also remind families to make themselves familiar with the content under the 'filing cabinet' section of our website as this section hosts various consent forms as well as information around data processing [HERE](#).*

### Staffing News

Congratulations to Miss Wright, who was married over the summer and is now Mrs Wright!

In case you didn't hear at the end of last term, congratulations also go out to Mrs Crossley, welcoming baby Oliver to her family just before we broke up (and only just after she started maternity leave!). With Mrs Crossley being on maternity leave, we welcome Miss Megan Hubbard to the year 4 teaching team alongside Mrs Tranter.

We said goodbye and thank you to Mrs Watson, one of our midday supervisors, as she leaves us for a different role.

**We have vacancies for Midday Supervisors (MSAs) currently—if you enjoy working with children, come and join our friendly team- please get in touch with Miss Woodward if you are interested ( via the office).**

### School meals

To remind you that key stage 2 school meals are again costed at £2.30 per meal for pupils in years 3 through to 6. We have managed to negotiate this price freeze for all key stage 2 pupils in the STAR MAT. Similarly, nursery aged pupil meals remain priced at £1.70.

Meals for pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 continue to be provided free of charge to families.

If any parent would like to discuss their child's dietary needs further, Mrs Pattinson our head cook, would be very happy to make an appointment to meet with you.

Don't forget, menus are always available via our school website, under 'information' and then 'meals and menu,' or you can just click [HERE](#).



For families new to Riverside, can we remind you that our catering facility is completely nut free. We have an ever-increasing number of pupils in school with allergic reactions and this move has helped us continue to minimise risk whilst providing good quality food to cater for every dietary requirement. To fit in with this we would also ask that parents sending in packed lunches also consider going nut free (most already are) to help us in this endeavour.

### School uniform

Thank you for sending your children so smartly dressed - it really does set the school image off a treat! Remember that now we no longer have indoor shoes, we request all pupils have comfortable, sensible school shoes to wear throughout the day (see article later in newsletter).

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—this is now even more important as we don't want children wearing their school shoes for PE outside and then into class!

At the end of last term we had a HUGE amount of un-named lost property. Please could we urge you to name everything!

Don't forget either that we insist that ALL pupils have a suitable bookbag to protect their reading book and planner and to ensure that letters home do not get lost! School branded bookbags are available to purchase via the School Office at £5 each or you may prefer to purchase elsewhere (preferably blue and plain, similar in design to the school ones). These bags should all be of a size to bring into class to contain just reading book, planner, letters home etc.

For reasons of safety no form of jewellery (watches, necklaces, brace-lets, rings, earrings etc.) may be worn during P.E., games or swimming activities. On days when the children are taking part in such activities we would ask parents to remove earrings before their children come to school. Where absolutely necessary, jewellery that cannot be easily removed will be taped over. However, this should not be the norm and as such we would request that piercings/'starter earrings' are first put in place at the beginning of school holidays such as they can be removed during term-time.



## Attendance, term time leave and lateness



We are extremely proud of our school attendance figures—they are well above national and allow us to work effectively in our classrooms knowing that our pupils miss very little vital content. However, it is a point of concern that the number of holiday requests and unauthorised leave taken, has increased over the past few years.

Please remember that schools are not allowed to authorise any leave for holiday during term time. Leave of absence for pupils (apart from 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 (with either myself or Miss Woodward) before any application is made in writing. Unfortunately, I have had to send off paperwork for several 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, on time and ready to learn. 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 and close with pupils becoming late and counting as UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE at 9.10am!

Please don't forget that Nursery morning sessions start at 9am.

The school has a duty to track and improve any pupil whose attendance falls below 90% (we would like all pupils above 95%). I will soon be writing to families of pupils whose attendance gave cause for concern last year to see how we can work together to improve this.

With regard leave applications where parents are unable to take leave from work during school closure periods, the guidance is that employer related exceptional circumstance are only where an employer allocates **all** annual leave and leaves a parent with no possible family holiday time apart from during termtime when looking at the year as a whole. In effect, this only really impacts on forces and occasionally 'factory closedown'. An employer letter would need to state very clearly ALL of the leave dates allocated to an employee across the whole annual calendar as proof that the family holiday could not be taken in any other school holidays (eg not just the summer break). Please do make an appointment to come and discuss further if needed.

Don't forget, if your child is absent for any reason we need to hear from you on the first day they are off BEFORE 9.15am. Most families already do this: it helps keep records accurate – phone, pop in to class, come past the office or email. **You can also now use the ParentMail App to inform absence.** The school office can be contacted on 01937 832899. **If we do not hear from you, you will receive a text reminder. Just to reinforce that if you do not notify a reason for absence, that session will be coded as 'unauthorised' and ultimately could result in a Penalty Notice fine being issued.**

## Upcoming events

We have recently planned the entire year's events into the calendar, right through to July 2020 – a copy of this should arrive in your welcome pack and is also available [HERE](#) on the school website.

For those of you with compatible smartphones, tablets and PCs, we again offer a downloadable school calendar.

To add this year's events to your device, visit the calendar page of our website [HERE](#) and click on '+ Google calendar.' If you did this last year, you should already find this year's events available on your calendar.

This year, some events will also be programmed in to ParentMail such as you will see notifications via the ParentMail app too, along with invitations to pre-book where spaces are limited – more news to follow.

Three dates which may be of immediate interest are 'welcome to our year group' meetings which are planned for the following year groups:

|                   |                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mon 9th Sept 6pm  | Welcome to year 5 parents meeting |
| Mon 9th Sept 6pm  | Welcome to year 6 parents meeting |
| Mon 16th Sept 6pm | Welcome to year 4 parents meeting |
| Mon 23rd Sept 6pm | Welcome to year 2 parents meeting |



On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October we would like to invite parents of pupils who have just joined reception and nursery to join us in the Link, to share a cup of tea/coffee and have an informal chat. Various staff will be available to discuss any settling in queries and we will ensure a few toys are on hand for toddlers!

## Contact us



To remind you that the school office email is: SchoolOffice@rs.starmat.uk

For more sensitive School Office enquiries please contact Mrs Borradaile our School Business Manager using the admin account: admin@rs.starmat.uk

Should you need to contact Mr Yapp/Miss Woodward directly, the addresses are headteacher@rs.starmat.uk and a.woodward@rs.starmat.uk

All classroom based staff can be contacted via the format:

(First initial).(surname)@rs.starmat.uk for example, should you need to contact Mrs Deakin as our inclusion manager, her address is n.deakin@rs.starmat.uk

Please note that classroom staff have a very busy working day and do not monitor their email during teaching time. Should your contact be urgent (i.e. needs to be seen within 24 hours), please use one of the office addresses or phone us on 01937 832899.



### **Planners, SMIRFS and All That!**

With great thanks to Hunters, Lambert, Tadcaster Enterprise Park, Adventure Photography 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 or email to the office (01937 832899, [SchoolOffice@rs.starmat.uk](mailto:SchoolOffice@rs.starmat.uk))

**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 from year 1 upwards. We cannot stress highly enough the difference the SMIRFs make with regard maths understanding, progress and fluency!**

### **Clubs**

Our clubs schedule for the autumn term was published in July with most clubs available to book via ParentMail. The schedule is available via the school website under 'information'.

### **Music Lessons**

With musicians from last year's Year 6 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.

### **Your Contact information**

If you have changed address or any contact information over the holidays, please let Mrs Scoot, Miss Kavanagh or Mrs Coates at the office know. This is especially important for mobile numbers as these tend to change more frequently. Please contact:

[schooloffice@rs.starmat.uk](mailto:schooloffice@rs.starmat.uk)

### **Riverside Website**

[www.rs.starmat.uk](http://www.rs.starmat.uk)

Please can I remind all families that by clicking on the 'subscribe to updates' link at the top of the homepage, you can register your email address and our system will automatically email links to newsletters etc.

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 'information' tab.

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter, [@TadRiverside](https://twitter.com/TadRiverside), and see photos and videos of all the fun happening in school!

### **School Shoes—getting it right!**



- Brown or black
- Leather, suede, synthetic
- Sensible in design, robust, comfortable
- Easy to fasten/unfasten
- Support and protect the foot; sole with tread/grip



- No trainers, baseball boots or Converse style footwear
- Plain in design—no flashes, logos, branding
- No heels
- Easy to fasten/unfasten

**Please help us to get this right—we will need to 'challenge' pupils who do not work with this policy, to keep it fair to all pupils! If your child has specific orthopaedic needs, then please do come and talk to us.**

### **Menu Change—census day**

The school lunch menu for Thursday 3rd October will be:

**Hot dogs in a homemade bread-bun (or veggie sausage and a bun)**

Coleslaw

Mixed Salad

Jelly and Ice-cream

Dietary options always available

As some of you will know, the amount of income we receive for infant school meals is calculated across two meal 'census' days. The first such day is on 3rd October. It makes 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! This meals census day we would like to encourage every **infant** pupil to at least sample from our 'taster menu' (even alongside a pack up) - please let us know if you do NOT want your child to have the taster menu.

## Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy Updates



We are proud of our children's behaviour at Riverside and we have been pleased to see the children return with such positive attitudes to school. Over the next few months, we will be reviewing all aspects of our work to support our children and families to maintain positive relationships, to learn about making the right choices when faced with challenging situations as well as providing emotional support for positive mental health. We recognise that there will be times when children find aspects of school hard so we want to make sure that we are providing the most effective support through our PSED curriculum teaching, our support for more unstructured times (e.g. playtimes and lunchtimes), giving pupils a voice through our School Council work as well as regularly reviewing our support for individual need.

We recently thoroughly reviewed our Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies and these are now available on our website. You can have a look at these by clicking on the links below:

[Riverside Behaviour Policy](#)  
[Riverside Anti-Bullying Policy](#)

You will notice some changes to some of our systems to support our positive behaviour. These include:

- Removing names from our Zone board system– the zone system remains in place but we are referring to the choices children are making that may mean they have taken an inappropriate choice or decision that would be in the green /yellow/or red zones – we will work hard to ensure that we pro-actively support children to have the strategies to be in the gold zone at all times.
- We are extending our use of an online individual rewards system across the school from Reception to Year 6. This is called "classdojo" and you will be able to access this from home to see how your child has been doing– each class will notify you when these are ready for you to access! You need to register with the system in order to receive notifications.
- We will be working closely with the children to update our Anti-Bullying Charter and this will be displayed around all areas of school to support the children. We want to support children and families to fully understand what bullying is (and what it isn't!) and get the best help and support if this is happening. When the children have finalised this, we will send it home attached to a newsletter for you to see.
- We have already increased our equipment and staffing at lunchtimes and playtimes and we have a variety of activities running through lunchtime, to support every child to have a positive playtime. We would still like to recruit some more dinnertime staff, so if you are interested, or know someone who might be, please let us know. Being out at play with our pupils is a wonderfully positive experience..... we are really hoping to employ staff who want to join in and lead play with our pupils

We will keep you posted with updates as we proceed through the term.

Every year we 're-launch' our school rules with our pupils. If your child comes home with a coloured school logo sticker it will be because they have been spotted working well against the appropriately coloured rule. Our rules are:

**We expect everyone to.....**

**Listen carefully to each other**

**Follow instructions**

**Speak politely to everyone**

**Be kind and respectful to others**

**Always try your hardest and do your best**

## **Early Closure—27th September 2.30pm**

Tadcaster will again be a focus for various cycling events from 21<sup>st</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> September and you can find out more here:

<https://worlds.yorkshire.com/the-races/>

We have been contacted by the Strategic Planning Team at North Yorkshire County Council and notified that on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September, there will be a rolling road closure impacting many of our families, especially on the return journey after school. On Friday 27<sup>th</sup>, the race comes through via the A162/ A659 (High Street) / Wighill Lane under a rolling road closure between 10:00am and 11:00am, and again between 3:15pm and 4:15pm.

Working alongside the Strategic Planning and Transport teams, we have decided that the best option is to close school early on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> as there is likely to be considerable congestion in the area and school bus companies have already indicated they would be unable to operate at their usual times.

### **Riverside School and Nursery will therefore close early at 2.30pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

School buses have been arranged for collection from the school site at this revised closure time.

For pupils already booked into Riverside Play Place, the club will take pupils from this revised closure time through to the normal club finish time at 6pm, for no additional charge. There are a few spaces available for the Friday afternoon session should you not be able to arrange suitable childcare for the revised closure time – please ring the school office on 01937 832899 ([SchoolOffice@rs.starmat.uk](mailto:SchoolOffice@rs.starmat.uk)) as a matter of urgency, should you need this provision – spaces will be allocated on first-come-first-served basis.

Please note that History and Perform clubs will not run on 27<sup>th</sup> September with an additional club instead set to run on 20<sup>th</sup> December.

We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this adjustment will cause, however, we have made this decision to safeguard our pupils and hope that this advance notice will allow for families to adjust their routines accordingly.

**Children in year 5 can look forward to a visit from some of the UCI team, including a previous World Champion, Mandy Bishop, on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September, when they will visit Riverside to talk to y5 pupils, bringing the 'rainbow jersey' to show the pupils too.**

### **Some dates for your diaries:**

#### **September 2019**

Monday 2nd September Training Day  
Tues 3rd September - term starts  
Friday 6th September - year group information letters home  
Monday 9th September Welcome to Year 6 Parents Meeting 6pm  
Monday 9th September Welcome to Year 5 Parents Meeting 6pm  
Thursday 12th September Tadcaster dodgeball festival for small team of KS1  
Monday 16th September Welcome to Year 4 Parents Meeting 6pm  
Mon 16th September first Friends of School meeting Tad Magnets at 7pm  
Week 16th – clubs start this week  
Tuesday 17th September TGS Parents information evening at Riverside for y6 families at 6.30pm  
Thursday 19th September Tadcaster Cross Country pre-Qualifier for KS2  
Thurs 19th September TGS open evening for Year 6 families 5.30-8pm  
Monday 23rd September Welcome to Year 2 meeting 6pm  
Thurs 26th September Tadcaster multi-skills festival for team of year 3  
Friday 27th September European Languages Day  
**Friday 27th September early closure—UCI Cycling Event 2.30pm**  
Friday 27th September Friends of Riverside Fashion Show evening  
Monday 30th September Governors Meeting 6.30pm

#### **October 2019**

Weds 2nd October Speaking and Listening Day  
Thursday 3rd October Harvest Service for pupils 10am  
Thursday 3rd October Harvest themed lunch  
Friday 4th October - current EYFS new parents morning  
Weds 9th October Friends AGM 7pm at school  
Week 7th October – Let's Draw Together Art day  
Thurs 10th October Reception open morning – for Sept 20 starters  
Thurs 10th October World Mental Health Day  
Thurs 10th October individual pupil photos  
Fri 11th October Year 4 Towton Battle re-enactment  
Thursday 17th October Tadcaster Football Tournament for teams in y5/6  
Friday 18th October School discos 6-6.45pm for EY/KS1 and 7-8pm KS2  
Tues 22nd October TGS perform Annie to Riverside students TBC 1.30pm  
**Tues 22nd and Weds 23rd October—Autumn parents evenings—bookable via ParentMail App in due course**  
Thursday 24th October School closes for half-term holidays  
Training day Fri 25th October – school closed to pupils

#### **November 2019**

Mon 4th November term starts for children

**Here's to another  
fantastic year!**

*Ian Yapp*

**Headteacher**

*Alison Woodward*

**Deputy Headteacher**

