



# JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024! Christmas festivities are now a dim and distant memory (for everyone!) and the children have settled back into the new term, successfully. We have been delighted to welcome a number of new children to our school this month and they have been warmly greeted and supported by our kind and friendly Riverside pupils! Pupils at our school are always really excited when a new pupil joins their class as there is the opportunity for a new and fresh friendship to be formed. On a less cheerful topic, we've experienced some harsh weather over these last few weeks. Of course, January brings wintry weather and we have already had sub-zero temperatures, snow, ice, torrential rain and strong winds. Our school caretaker, Graham, has ensured the health and safety of our school and grounds has remained his high priority so that our children and staff can continue to learn and work in a safe environment.

## Events this month

- Children in Year 5 and Year 6 took part in a knife crime workshop, delivered by Northumbria Police, to develop their awareness and understanding.
- Year 6 attended Safetyworks and learnt about anti-social behaviour and its consequences, dog handling safety, staying safe around open water, fire-safety and they also received a lovely mental health and wellbeing session.
- Year 6 attended the Discovery Museum to create working torches and explore the museum.
- Some children from Year 5 and 6 attended a North Tyneside schools' gymnastics competition at The Parks to demonstrate gymnastics sequences they have learnt at school to a panel of judges. As lots of other North Tyneside schools took part across the day, we don't yet know the outcome of this competition.
- In Year 2, the children have had lots of fun in Science identifying how they have changed since they were a baby! They brought in baby photos and the class had to guess who was who!
- Reception Class have enjoyed exploring the ice outside. They know that when water freezes it becomes ice and they can describe how it feels. The children have enjoyed finding different ways to break the ice and they identified shapes that the shattered ice made. They have also enjoyed melting ice in the classroom using cold, hot and salty water and investigating which water melted the ice the quickest!
- Year 5 took part in a Basketball tournament at Vertu Arena with 13 other North East primary schools. Riverside entered three teams from the class. Two of the teams progressed to the knock out stages and one team narrowly lost in the quarter finals.

## Forward Dates

Forward dates for the Spring Term are now on the school website ([Home>Parents>Term Dates>Spring Term 2024 Forward Dates](#)) as well as the website calendar. Please take a look to take note of upcoming events so that you are fully informed of what is happening this term up until the Easter holiday.

## Year 6 SATs Booster Classes

Miss Embleton and Miss Woodcock have begun after school weekly Booster Classes this term for Year 6 pupils to prepare them for this year's SATs. Whilst the timetabled teaching day covers all aspects of learning pupils will require to undertake the tests, we have always felt, at Riverside, that regular additional sessions every week really boosts the

children's confidence. Therefore, we are giving them the best possible chance of success by providing them with the opportunity to sharpen their skills and increase their knowledge.

### Breakfast Club

Our FREE Breakfast Club opens at 8.20am and doors close at 8.40am. We have places available so if you would like your child to attend, please complete an application form which can be picked up from the Main Office.

Parents should be aware that there is only **one** entry route into Breakfast Club. This is via the school playground and then along the footpath which runs alongside the staff car park. PLEASE DO NOT WALK ON THE CAR PARK ITSELF OR ALLOW YOUR CHILDREN TO RUN AHEAD OF YOU, ACROSS THE CAR PARK. Under no circumstances should parents and children access Breakfast Club via the Riverside Centre car park and the rear school staff car park as there is no footpath from the main Riverside Centre car park to their smaller car park beyond the barrier. These rules must be strictly adhered to in order to reduce the risk of an accident involving a child and a moving vehicle.

### School Uniform / PE Kit

Parents are reminded that children should come to school dressed in their PE kit on PE days but on all other days, full school uniform should be worn.

### Start of the school day procedures

Please can we remind parents that, before the start of the school day, teachers are extremely busy preparing the resources and equipment and setting up lessons. This means that teachers are unavailable for a 'quick chat' before the bell at 8.50am, whether this be a telephone call or a face to face conversation. Parents will be able to chat briefly with staff as they welcome children in at 8.50am or, alternatively, parents can contact the main office – before the start of the school day – and make a request for the member of staff to contact them. We would request that parents DO NOT interrupt teachers as they go about their morning preparation work by knocking on the classroom windows or door BEFORE 8.50am. Your cooperation is appreciated.

### No Dogs Allowed on the School Site

Please may we remind parents and carers that dogs and puppies are NOT allowed on the school site under any circumstances – this includes small dogs/puppies being carried. There are clear notices at our school entrances which state that dogs are prohibited and we ask that all parents respect this.

### Smoking and Vaping Ban on School Premises

Please would parents refrain from vaping on the school yard or around children when accompanying classes on a school trip as a parent volunteer. For clarity, we have placed additional 'No Smoking or Vaping' signs around school.

### Attendance and Punctuality

**We expect all pupils to arrive at school in plenty of time to be ready to enter school at 8.50am.**

Please remember that school – and learning – starts at 8:50am (our daily handwriting lesson is 8:50am – 9:00am) and any child who is late will have missed this very important start to the school day. Parents may consider sending their child to our FREE Breakfast Club and this will guarantee that they will not be late for school!

**If you are running late, please call school to let the Office staff know.**

Yours sincerely,

*A. Yilmaz*

Mrs A Yilmaz  
Headteacher