



# APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to this month's newsletter. We have only been back at school for just over two weeks so this should be a relatively short newsletter! Please do read on to find out about all the exciting events which have already taken place as well as some polite reminders about school matters and important notices about future events.

## Curriculum Enrichment Learning

- Some children in Year 2 have completed the last session of their 10 week course of 'Relax Kids'. These sessions were run by the Connect Mental Health Support Team and supported children in how to self-regulate their emotions.
- Children in Year 4 and Year 5 have taken part in NUFC Foundation 'Restart a Heart' workshop. Through these workshops, children are given the confidence and skills they need to give the gift of life in the event of a friend or family member experiencing a cardiac arrest.
- NUFC Foundation have also supported school staff in delivering gymnastics lessons to children in Year 1 and Year 4.
- Charlotte Law, a music teacher from Education North Tyneside's Schools Music Support Service, has been teaching weekly music lessons to pupils in Year 3 and Year 5, alongside school staff.
- All pupils in school participated in North Tyneside's 'Active Mile' Day on 18<sup>th</sup> April where each class took it in turns to run a marked route of the playground which was one mile long! Riverside have taken part in this annual event for many years now and the children really enjoy the experience - especially those pupils who consider it a competition to see who finishes the course in the fastest time!
- Year 6 visited North Shields Fish Quay on a very wet and cold day to undertake some Geography fieldwork.
- Children in Year 4 visited Northumberland Park to carry out investigations related to their current units of work in Science and Geography.
- Children from Year 4 and Year 5 have commenced taking part in a STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) weekly learning programme delivered by the Newcastle Falcons. The theme is 'Tackling Insights'. Supported by Sage Foundation, it is a programme that aims to inspire pupils to consider careers in STEM subjects. It uses rugby and its core values as a tool to inspire and develop learning through innovation, data and insight.
- Year 5 visited the Rising Sun Country Park last week to take part in an Orienteering event, organised by Education North Tyneside.
- Some pupils in Year 3 and Year 4 took part in an inter-school gymnastics competition at The Parks. Again, this event was organised by North Tyneside School Sport Team.

## Lego League National Tournament – Harrogate

The Year 6 team, the "Riverside Racquetees", attended the LEGO League National Tournament as finalists at the Harrogate Convention Centre on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April. After an early start, the children arrived at the Centre and battled it out against 73 other teams from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. They pitched their fantastic "racquetarium" to a team of judges, meeting lots of new people, talking about technology, robots and careers in STEM, as well as doing lots of great LEGO activities. The children had a brilliant time and made all of us at Riverside extremely proud for making it so far in the competition. It was a day to remember! ...

### Forward Dates – Summer Term

Parents will already have been sent a link to the Summer Term Forward Dates now on the website. These events will also be added to the school website calendar (accessed on the right of the Home Screen – ‘Calendar Dates’) very soon. Please take note of upcoming events for the Summer Term so that you are fully informed of what is happening at school and you are able to make the necessary arrangements to attend our ‘open school’ events.

### Attendance and Punctuality

Attending school, and arriving on time for the start of the school day is very important to your child’s academic achievement, their wellbeing, and also to their wider development, preparing them for successful transitions as they grow older. Regular school attendance supports children’s educational, economic and social outcomes and when at school, pupils can be supported to have positive relationships with peers and this contributes to better mental health. Currently, our average attendance for the year is 92.3% which is lower than the national average (September, 2023 – March 2024) of 94.3%. We, therefore, require the support of parents in ensuring your child attends school regularly and on time for the start of the school day (8.50am).

### 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. *However, we also request that parents do not engage in lengthy conversations with school staff when dropping their children off at the classroom door.* Lessons and learning begins at 8.50am and any delays to lessons, or lessons having to be cut shorter, will have an impact on the progress of all the children in the class. Alternatively, parents can contact the main office 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.

Yours sincerely,

*A. Yilmaz*

Mrs Yilmaz,  
Headteacher