



FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to February's newsletter. It has only been three weeks since the previous one, so this will be a shorter one! I have included news for this month as well as polite reminders. Unfortunately, the weather hasn't been great recently and the continued torrential rain has resulted in our school field being very muddy. Hopefully, as we head into Easter, we may see some drier and warmer weather. Fingers crossed!

Events this month

- Reception Class have enjoyed celebrating Pancake Day. They loved making and then eating their pancakes and they chose their favourite toppings. They also celebrated Valentine's Day and enjoyed making crafts for their loved ones! Reception Class have learnt about Chinese New Year and they can retell the zodiac story. They have enjoyed learning about a different country and loved their Stay and Play session with their parents where they completed activities together!
- Year 2 have had a very sporty February! The skipping school visited the class at the start of February and showed the children how to perform different skips for their Skipping Competition in June. As well as this, 10 children represented Riverside Primary at The Parks Centre in a Gymnastics Competition. They all did amazingly well!
- In Year 3, the children have been learning about Road Safety and the Green Cross Code. They enjoyed creating their own road safety video. They also enjoyed learning how to use their scooters safely, bringing their scooters into school to practise!
- In Year 6, some children participated in Bikeability. As part of Children's Mental Health Week, Year 6 and Reception worked together to create telephones to talk about their feelings. The whole-school participated in E-Safety day. Year 6 also received a session from MILK Education on E-Safety.
- Pupils from Year 5 and Year 6 who didn't go to Robinwood went to Norham High School to see their production of High School Musical. The students put on a very good performance and some of the parts were played by ex-Riverside pupils!
- Pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 took part in a 'Good Manners and Respect' workshop with an external facilitator. The workshop focused on respectful and disrespectful behaviours, appropriate and inappropriate touch and the importance of consent.

Robinwood

The children who attended Robinwood had a fantastic time! All children tried something new and gave everything a good go. Instructors at Robinwood commented frequently on how enthusiastic and positive the children were, even when it began to snow and get quite chilly! Children canoed, ziplined, escaped the piranha pool and 'trapezed' their way through the three days, often making the challenges look effortless. Miss Embleton, Miss Woodcock and Miss Kaczan were incredibly proud of all the children in their groups. Well done 2024 Robinwooders!

Staffing Update

After the half term break, we will be welcoming four new members of staff to Riverside! Natalie and Sarah will join Anne-Marie and Susan as part of our Lunchtime Supervisors team and Miss Collett and Miss Frith will be joining our Early Years and KS1 teams to support young learners across these classes.

POLITE REMINDERS.....

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.

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.

SCHOOL CLOSES TODAY FOR THE SPRING HALF TERM HOLIDAY AND RE-OPENS ON MONDAY 26TH FEBRUARY.

We wish everyone an enjoyable holiday and look forward to our children returning to school rested, refreshed and eager to learn!

Yours sincerely,

A. Yilmaz

Mrs A Yilmaz
Headteacher