



# OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to this month's newsletter. We have now completed the longest half term of the academic year and have crammed in so much learning! Pupils and staff are ready for their well-earned half term break and we finish off this half term with a Halloween theme – children have come to school dressed up in ghoulish costumes and our scary and ghostly Halloween parties are taking place this afternoon!

## Classroom News

**Reception** – Reception have really enjoyed learning about Autumn! They found signs of Autumn outside and made art work with the leaves and sticks they found. They have had a very spooky week this week learning about Hallowe'en! They have made their own potions using bicarbonate of soda, vinegar and food colouring and the children have been so excited to watch the explosions!

**Year 1** – Year 1 have been very busy this month! They have been learning all about the season we are currently in, Autumn. They know what the different signs are and they are excited for their Autumn walk after the half term! In Art, they have been learning how to make their own observational drawings. They used shells to bring theirs to life! They have been using part-whole models in Maths and they know their number bonds to 10.

**Year 2** – Year 2 enjoyed their trip to Beamish to find out what school was like in the 1900's. Today, they have taken part in a workshop called 'Brush Up' led by Newcastle University Dental students.

**Year 4** – Year 4 have enjoyed and participated in a visit from the fire service when they learned about fire safety and prevention. Representing Riverside at the hockey festival, the children were excellent ambassadors of our school. Everyone took part and learned new hockey skills on the day.

**Year 6** – Year 6 have honed their cricket skills this half-term with the cricket coach, learning how to throw and catch accurately. They visited the Hancock Museum to find out more about Evolution and Inheritance and also enjoyed viewing the other exhibits on offer. Children wore red to "show racism the red card" and took part in various activities around Black History Month.

## Black History Month

Key Stage 2 welcomed Kema Kay into the school and took part in an interactive workshop. Children and staff loved his Riverside Rap. All classes enjoyed exploring an afternoon dedicated to Black History Month exploring the authors and characters from English books and novels.

## Sport and Healthy Lifestyles

Children from Year 5 and Year 6 had a 'Hoops for Health' afternoon with the Newcastle Eagles. They play Basketball games in the hall and learned about healthy balanced diets. Children in KS2 have also taken part in cricket coaching sessions with a coach from Northumberland Cricket Club.

## Staffing News

Miss Kaczan leaves Riverside today, having worked here for eighteen years. She will take up the post of Guidance Leader at Norham High School on 4<sup>th</sup> November. We wish her every success in her new role. Miss Cameron will begin her new role as Pupil Welfare Officer after half term. Mrs Burston, Teaching Assistant in Year 2, continues to be absent from work following planned surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery. Christine, our school cook, remains absent from work, recovering from planned surgery in the summer. In the meantime, Miss Calboutin is covering in Year 2 and Joanna is our temporary School Cook.

### Home/School Communication

A further reminder that in our drive to improve communication between home and school this academic year we now have more staff available for informal conversations at the start of and the end of each school day.

We now have, in place, the following staff available:

Mrs Yilmaz, Headteacher – School Entrance Gates, Monday to Friday, 8.30am – 9.00am

Miss Cameron, Pupil Welfare Officer – Main School Reception Area, Monday to Friday 8.50am – 9.30am

Miss Cameron, Pupil Welfare Officer – School Playground, Monday to Friday 3.05pm – 3.30pm

Mrs Hall, SENCo – School Playground, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3.00pm.

We hope that making staff more available to answer your queries, informally, will reduce the need to make an appointment or request a call back as we know it can be frustrating when staff are unavailable.

### Showcase Assemblies

A huge thank you to parents and families who attended our Showcase Assemblies last week. The children were very proud to share all the learning they had done across a range of subjects! I particularly enjoyed the singing and the other music playing skills the children performed! Well done to every child who was presented with a certificate of achievement from their class teacher and 'Congratulations' to the Headteacher Award winners: Leon, Talia, Elia and Rose. In the Spring and Summer terms, our 'Showcase Assemblies' will have a slightly different and informal format but please be assured that by the end of this academic year, **every child** in each class will have received a Certificate of Achievement from their class teacher.

### Show Racism the Red Card

Last Friday, Riverside showed its support for this cause by children and staff coming to school wearing red! Show Racism the Red Card is the UK's leading educational anti-racism charity and our children took part in activities from their Education Hub that promoted anti-racism.

### Parental Consultations

These were held on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Thank you to those parents who booked an appointment to chat with their child's class teacher to find out how they had settled into the new school year. We hope you found the appointments useful. We didn't have as many parents as we'd have hoped attend these appointments so we hope to see more of you in the Spring Term Consultation Evenings.

### School Office

The School Office is open Monday to Thursday from 8.00am – 4.00pm and 8.00am – 3.30pm on Fridays. The school answerphone is in use outside of these times if you wish to leave message. All messages are picked up at 8.00am. The school office staff are Ms Taylor, School Business Manager, and Miss Clay, Administration Assistant. Miss Cameron is also on the front desk in the Main Reception from 8.50am – 9.30am, every day.

### Data Collection

It is particularly important that we have your current mobile phone number on file in case of emergency contact so if you do change your phone number, or details of your emergency contacts, it is essential you tell us straight away.

### Medication

No child should bring medication to school. If your child is unwell, and has been prescribed medication to be taken during the school day, a parent **MUST** complete a form and the arrangement **MUST** be agreed by the Headteacher **before** any medication is administered. All enquiries regarding medicines should be directed to Miss Cameron.

### School Meals Ordering System – Hutchison’s Appetite

Can we please remind parents to order their child’s school meals in advance. This will avoid a long queue at the office in the mornings, and ensure children are NOT missing valuable learning at the start of their first lesson of the day! There is now a new winter menu in place with some different hot food choices for the children.

### SCHOOL UNIFORM / CLOTHING RAIL

Our pre-loved clothing rails are in the Main Entrance. Parents can access school uniform items (polo shirts, trousers, skirts) at no cost. All uniform and other clothing items are freshly laundered before being placed on the rail. If you have any outgrown school sweatshirts or other clothing items in good condition you would be happy to donate, please bring them in. Any contributions will be gratefully received – thank you. We also add new/unused school clothing items regularly. If you are experiencing difficulty in providing your child with school clothing or footwear, please contact the School Office where we will be able to help.

### Halloween Fun!

We ended this half term in our traditional spooky fashion today! Children came to school dressed in amazing fancy dress costumes for Halloween. Staff also dressed up and decorated their classrooms. We had many ghosts and ghouls to scare us! This afternoon, the children had their Halloween parties! There were games and prizes for all the children in the dark and spooky hall which had cobwebs and skeletons and all things scary! Party food and drink was set up in the classrooms and made special with Halloween tablecloths, cups and plates! The cost of putting on today’s fun event for the children was paid for by our School Fund (a pot of money from parental voluntary contributions)

### Forward Dates from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December (full details available on school website\*)

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	School re-opens for pupils
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Curriculum Information uploaded to Class Page on website
11 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week – “Choose Respect”
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Odd Socks Day
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need
18 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	UK Parliament Week
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	November’s Newsletter published
25 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Bikeability
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Panto Trip – ‘The Little Mermaid’, Theatre Royal, Newcastle
w/c 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Final session for the term of all extra-curricular clubs
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Party – 1.30pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Party – 1.30pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Party – 1.30pm
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Christmas Party – 11.00am – 12.00pm
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Christmas Party – 1.30pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Show – Morning Performance (Show begins 9.30am)
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Show – Afternoon Performance (Show begins 2.00pm)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	December’s Newsletter published
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	School closes at 3.20pm for Christmas Holidays

School closes today for the half term holidays and reopens on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.

**On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November SCHOOL IS CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING.**

On behalf of the school staff at Riverside, I wish you a happy and enjoyable half term break.