



NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to November's newsletter. There are now only three more weeks left of the Autumn term and there is still so much learning to take place! However, we will be commencing some exciting Christmas events soon, in line with our 'Riverside traditions' at this time of year! This month we have had some extreme weathers – snow, ice, wind, rain, strong winds and low temperatures – but we have all remained warm, dry and sheltered indoors!

We hope you enjoy reading this month's round up of news, polite reminders and important information.

Classroom News

Nursery – Nursery children had a fabulous time at the library, listening to stories and carrying out activities based on the book 'Supertato' that they got in their pack to take home and share with an adult. They also have had a lovely Stay and Play with visitors from the Riverside Centre who talked about health and well-being to parents whilst children and parents engaged in art activities together.

Reception – Reception have been learning about people who help us. They have studied firefighters as well as the police. The children went on a fire extinguisher hunt around school and counted how many they found. Now, all of the children know what to do in case of an emergency and the number to dial to call for help.

Year 1 – Year 1 went on their Autumn Walk at the start of Autumn 2. They found lots of different signs of Autumn including different coloured leaves, berries, bare trees and ducks! They have just started to learn how to subtract in Maths and they are able to identify different famous landmarks of London from a book they are studying in their English lessons. Next week, they are going to visit Percy St John's Church with Year 2 to support their learning in RE. They have worked incredibly hard so far this half term!

Year 2 – Year 2 have recently started doing the 'Mastering Number' teaching programme at the beginning of their maths lessons. They enjoy using the Rekenreks (Dutch for counting rack) to support their understanding of numbers. In their Geography topic, they are learning about the continents and oceans of the world and have enjoyed using the iPads to conduct research on some of the most amazing places around the world.

Year 3 – Year 3 have been enjoying their new topic of volcanoes, finding out about how and where they form and what happens when they erupt. They have been building bridges in Design Technology and the children have shown some super teamwork and resilience when using various materials to construct bridges and test their strength. Year 3 have been excited to be inducted as Buddies for the first time this half term, with over half the class volunteering for this role! Children enjoyed taking part in skipping workshops with the "Skipping Ninja" and are looking forward to a trip to NU-Castle's Multisports competition on Monday.

Year 4 – Year 4 really enjoyed History Day and finding out all about the Romans for the day. They even explored some Roman artefacts. The children continued their Roman learning by creating dances representing elements of the Roman Empire. The children have enjoyed working practically in Science, too, learning all about sound, how we hear, change and make sounds. They really enjoyed the Skipping Ninja demonstration and workshop with many of the children showing off their incredible skills and learning some new moves before preparing for the skipping festival next term.

Year 5 – Year 5 have been involved in some sporting events this month. A group of Year 5 children joined a group of Year 6 children who attended a Sportshall Athletics event at The Parks and a small group of Year 5 children went to Newcastle (Newcastle United Foundation) for a Skipping Festival all morning which was good fun.

Year 6 – Year 6 enjoyed visiting NUCastle to take part in a STEM session. They coded robots to send messages and play rock, paper, scissors with each other. Some Year 5/6 children attended an Athletics tournament where they worked really hard to complete various athletics events. Year 6 also visited the Discovery Museum where they learnt all about light and made their very own working torches.

Staffing News

Mrs Burston, Teaching Assistant in Year 2, continues to be absent from work following planned surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her soon. Miss Calboutin is the cover Teaching Assistant in Year 2, supporting children's learning. Christine, our school cook, remains absent from work, recovering from planned surgery in the summer and Joanna continues to be our temporary School Cook.

We would also like to welcome Miss Green to Reception Class! Miss Green is a Teaching Assistant and replaces Miss Cameron who is now the school's Pupil Welfare Officer. One member of staff got married this month and so we send 'Congratulations' to our dinner lady, Sarah.

Communication

The following staff are available for informal conversations at the start of and the end of each school day:

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

Miss Cameron, Pupil Welfare Officer – Breakfast Club, Monday to Friday 8.20am – 8.40am

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.

The Skipping Ninja

We had a visit from the Skipping Ninja on Monday. He led a whole school assembly and also workshops for classes across the school. Pupils and staff enjoyed the skipping sessions! Well done to everyone who took part and those awarded a prize for being the best at skipping in their classes!

School Buddies

Miss Cameron has recruited and trained a new group of School Buddies. Their job is to help out at lunchtime in the dinner hall and out on the playground. The buddies are placed on a rota which currently changes every week so there is a lot of variety in their duties. Buddies who help out in the dinner hall are allowed to take their 'wages' at the end of their shift by Joanna, our school cook, who offers them an extra biscuit or cake, or bowl of chips or slice of garlic bread – whatever the buddies would like!

ReachMoreParents

You will have received a letter this week detailing our new school app, 'ReachMoreParents', how it works and how to register. We are very excited at how this will significantly improve communication and information sharing between school and parents. **We look forward to providing you with much more information than ever before – but REMEMBER, you must be registered with the App in order to receive the information and news!** ReachMoreParents allows you to see live updates about your child's education, meaning you will never miss those special moments. You will receive alerts and be kept up to date with School News, Trips, Learning Activities, Important Announcements, Key Dates and Events, Attendance Information and so much more!

School Website

Our new school website is now live!!! We are very proud of the work that has gone into the design and content and we feel it is now much easier to navigate for specific content. The quality and range of photographs is something we are proud of as it shows the wonderful pupils of Riverside, engrossed in learning and enjoying activities. We are aware that some website content is a little out of date and we are working to rectify this. If you have any feedback on our new website, we would love to hear from you.

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! The winter menu is now in place with some different hot food choices for the children and we would ask that you encourage your child to have a hot meal at lunchtime, especially in this seasonally cold weather.

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.

Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas Jumper Day

This year, our Christmas Dinner Day is on Wednesday 18th December. It will be a traditional roast turkey dinner with vegetables and gravy, followed by a Christmas biscuit or cupcake. There is also a vegetarian option (instead of the turkey). Full menu details are on the Hutchinson website/app. However, please note, there will be NO SANDWICHES OR JACKET POTATOES provided that day. If your child does not want a Christmas dinner, parents must provide their child with a packed lunch.

Wednesday 18th December is also Christmas Jumper Day and so we are inviting our children to wear their festive jumper that day (with normal school bottoms ie grey/ black trousers or skirt).

Forward Dates from Monday 2nd December – Friday 20th December (full details available on school website*)

Thursday 5 th December	KS2 Panto Trip – 'The Little Mermaid', Theatre Royal, Newcastle
w/c 9 th December	Final session for the term of all extra-curricular clubs
Monday 9 th December	Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Party – 1.30pm
Tuesday 10 th December	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Party – 1.30pm
Wednesday 11 th December	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Party – 1.30pm
Thursday 12 th December	Nursery Christmas Party – 11.00am – 12.00pm
Thursday 12 th December	Reception Christmas Party – 1.30pm
Wednesday 18 th December	School Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day*
Thursday 19 th December	Christmas Show – Morning Performance (Show begins 9.30am)

Thursday 19th December

Christmas Show – Afternoon Performance (Show begins 2.00pm)

Friday 20th December

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Friday 20th December

School closes at 3.20pm for Christmas Holidays

*please note: on Christmas Dinner Day, there will be no jacket potato or sandwich options

Christmas Show – Thursday 19th December

We have had a number of enquires to the school office about how to obtain tickets for our Christmas Show this year. All details about the show will be communicated via our ReachMoreParents app.