



SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to September's newsletter. It is incredible to think that a whole month has flown by and we have already completed 4 weeks of learning at Riverside! Sadly, the sunshine and warmth of July and August are a distant memory and we now have cold, wet and windy weather. The days are getting darker, too! Despite the change in the weather, the children of Riverside have settled in well to their new classes, are now familiar with new routines and expectations and have enjoyed getting to grips with new topics and the challenges within the areas of reading, writing and maths. Please do read on to find out our news updates and some reminders.

Classroom News

Nursery – The nursery children are starting to settle in to their new environment and adjusting to their classmates. They really enjoyed baking food ready for the Fairtrade breakfast. The children had even more fun eating the food and sharing it with their parents

Reception – Reception have settled really well into school and into their new routines. They have learnt about 'Ourselves' and differences between their family and other families. They enjoyed painting self-portraits and making a self-portrait out of healthy foods! They enjoyed their trip exploring their local area today.

Year 1 – Year 1 have settled back into school really well since the summer holidays. They have learnt lots of new and exciting things so far, including the 5 senses in Science, what technology is in Computing and what childhood was like for our grown-ups in History. They have also produced lots of amazing pieces of writing in English. They have a fantastic visiting Music Teacher who helps them to learn songs too! They thoroughly enjoyed making and eating their banana bread for Fairtrade Breakfast

Year 2 – Year 2 have settled back into school so well. They love their new classroom and have been working so hard on some really challenging Year 2 curriculum! They are particularly enjoying their history topic and learning about school in the past and are looking forward to visiting Beamish at the end of the half term!

Year 3 – Year 3 went on a trip to the Great North Museum: Hancock in Newcastle where they took part in a workshop investigating Stone Age and Bronze Age artefacts and explored the Stone Age galleries to support their History Topic. They also had chance to look around some of the other galleries such as dinosaurs, Ancient Egypt and animals. The children have also started French lessons for the first time this term, and have enjoyed learning greetings and how to introduce themselves. They have been working with the Cricket Coach to learn batting skills. The children have also enjoyed exploring drawing with charcoal, including on a large scale on rolls of paper in the hall. And of course getting messy is all part of the fun!

Year 4 – The children have settled in very well to the new challenges of year 4. They have really enjoyed having the cricket coach in school and the children are demonstrating some impressive skills. They have also started preparing for the skipping festival and have had a coach from skipping school to take us through our paces, increasing the level of difficulty and challenge.

Year 5 – Year 5 have settled into upper Key Stage 2 well. They have enjoyed cricket coaching and some music lessons with visiting coaches/music teacher. They made muffins for Fairtrade Breakfast and were proud to show them to parents in school.

Year 6 – Year 6 have had a fantastic start of the year, learning about cross-breeding, such as the "grolar bear", in Science and how women fought for their rights by refusing to sign the census in the 1900s. Children are working hard to improve their swimming and cricket skills, as well as understanding carbon footprints and how this contributes to fair-trade between countries. They made delicious choco-chip, malteser, banana and oat cookies which were enjoyed with banana milkshakes for our Fairtrade breakfast.

New Reception Class Parent Lunch

We were delighted to welcome parents into school recently to enable them to enjoy a dining experience with their child. Children and parents were offered a delicious roast dinner with vegetables (with other food choices available, too) and it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. There were lots of clean plates and happy faces!

Fairtrade Breakfast

Thank you to parents and family members who came to sample Fairtrade breakfast foods, prepared by the children. Over the previous two weeks, the children had learned what 'Fair Trade' means: that it 'changes the way trade works through better prices, decent working conditions and a fairer deal for farmers and workers in developing countries'. We hope you found the foods on offer tasty – there was certainly a lovely smell of baking throughout the school the day before!

Extra-curricular clubs offer

Our extra-curricular clubs have begun. We always listen to the views of the pupils, and the Sports Councillors, when deciding what clubs to offer. Currently we have the following *lunchtime* clubs: Football, Dodgeball, and Basketball. The following clubs run *after school*: Gymnastics, Cricket, KS1 Rugby and KS2 Rugby. All clubs are very popular and well-attended.

School Council Elections

Last week, we held elections for our new school councillors and the winning pupils from each class from Year 1 to Year 6 were presented with their certificate and School Council badge during Monday's assembly. The theme of the assembly was democracy, listening to the views of others and valuing one another's opinions.

The elected school councillors for 2024-2015 are: Aleynah, Kieran, Enya, Mason, Ava, Joseph, Isla, Emily, Jace, Tommy, Emily, Harleigh and Ethan.

School Buddies

We have also recruited a new team of School Buddies this year. School buddies play an important role in our school, having a range of responsibilities and being a role model for others in terms of behaviour, attitudes and manners. They wear their distinctive high-vis vests with pride and are always on hand to help other children or adults in school.

Staffing News

We would like to inform you that Mrs Burston, Teaching Assistant in Key Stage 1, has now begun a planned, long-term period of medical absence. Her absence is being covered by Miss Calboutin who has already spent some time in school this week, getting to know the children and working alongside Mrs Burston to become familiar in the role.

Home/School Communication

A reminder that, this year, our aim is to improve communication between home and school, to be able to respond to your queries quickly, and to 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 Kaczan, Pastoral and Guidance Leader – Main School Reception Area, Monday to Friday 8.50am – 9.30am

Miss Kaczan, Pastoral and Guidance Leader – 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.

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 Kaczan 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 Kaczan.

Health and Safety

May I remind you that pupils are **not** allowed to ride their bikes or scooters on the yard in order to minimise the risk of an accident. We would also ask that due care and attention is shown by ALL bike and scooter users on the path just outside of school. Children who cross Waterville Road by Rose Cottage should use the School Crossing Patrol so that they can cross safely.

I would like to remind parents that we placed signs on the entrances to the school premises last year which prohibit smoking or the use of vapes on the school yard. There is also a sign which shows we do not allow electric bikes or electric scooters on the yard. Additionally, dogs are not allowed on the yard – this includes puppies and small dogs which can be carried. We would appreciate it if parents would adhere to these rules and ensure their children follow them, too – especially the riding of bikes and scooters on the yard in the morning and at home time when the yard is very busy.

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!

SCHOOL UNIFORM / CLOTHING RAIL

Our school clothing rail in the Main Entrance has been replenished for the start of the new term. Parents can access additional school uniform items (polo shirts, trousers, skirts) at no cost. All uniform and other clothing items on this rail have been freshly laundered for September. If you have any outgrown school sweatshirts or other 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.

Forward Dates from Monday 30th September – Friday 25th October (full details available on school website*)

Monday 30 th September	Harvest Festival
1 st – 31 st October	Black History Month
Tuesday 8 th October	School Photographer – Individual Photographs + families
Thursday 10 th October	World Mental Health Day
Monday 14 th October	Year 5 & Year 6 'Showcase Assembly': 2.15pm – 3.15pm (Doors open at 2.00pm)
14 th – 18 th October	Recycle Week – 'Rescue Me'
Tuesday 15 th October	Year 1 & Year 2 'Showcase Assembly': 2.15pm – 3.15pm (Doors open at 2.00pm)
Wednesday 16 th October	Year 3 & Year 4 'Showcase Assembly': 2.15pm – 3.15pm (Doors open at 2.00pm)

Thursday 17 th October	Nursery 'Showcase Assembly': 11.00 – 11.30am (Doors open at 10.45am)
Thursday 17 th October	Reception 'Showcase Assembly': 2.45pm – 3.15pm (Doors open at 2.30pm)
Friday 18 th October	Show Racism the Red Card – 'Wear Red Day'
Tuesday 22 nd October	Parental Consultations 3.30pm – 4.30pm (Reception – Year 6)
Wednesday 23 rd October	Parental Consultations 3.30pm – 4.30pm (Reception – Year 6)
Thursday 24 th October	Nursery Parental Consultations (1.05pm – 3.05pm)
Friday 25 th October	Halloween Disco – 1.30pm – 2.15pm (Rec & K1) / 2.15pm – 3.00pm (KS2)
Friday 25 th October	School closes at 3.20pm for half-term
Friday 25 th October	October's Newsletter published