



FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to February's newsletter. As it has only been three weeks since January's newsletter, this one will be rather short! Weather wise, we have had drier and milder days with occasional bursts of rain but we have been lucky not to have had any indoor playtimes this month!

Classroom News

Nursery – The Nursery children have enjoyed exploring winter and the clothes we need to wear to keep us warm. We explored the North and South Pole and compared these to pictures of hot countries. We liked exploring the different animals that live in different environments.

Reception – Reception have enjoyed celebrating Valentine's Day and we have made love potions inside and outside the classroom. We have also made and written Valentine's cards for our loved ones! We have enjoyed learning about Fairytales in our topic lessons and our role play area in the classroom has been transformed into grandma's cottage linked to Little Red Riding Hood and also the witch's house linked to Hansel and Gretel. We have enjoyed using the role play masks to retell the story, pretending to be the various characters.

Year 1 – The Year 1 children have produced their own short story based on their English text, Grandpa's Gift. They all included nouns, verbs and adjectives. In Art, they have tried and tested different ways to make their own prints, first using ink then they tried paint. They are very proud of their prints! On Monday 17th February, they took part in a Dance Festival with other schools at the NUcastle Foundation where they learnt a dance to the song, The Greatest Showman. They have had a brilliant half term!

Year 2 – Year 2 have enjoyed learning about flight as part of their history topic. They used a variety of hot seating, role play and freeze framing to explore the achievements of significant people such as The Wright Brothers, Bessie Coleman, Amelia Earhart and Neil Armstrong. In science, the children have continued to learn about animals including humans. They understand that most animals need food, water and air to survive and how humans can live a healthy lifestyle. Children have also continued to enjoy learning about algorithms and how to debug code on Scratch. They are fantastic when using the iPads to create stories and games.

Year 3 – Year 3 have enjoyed learning how to play dodgeball and football. We have been practising a range of skills and have enjoyed taking part in both games. We have been reading Hodgehog in guided reading and we are enjoying finding out about Max's adventures when learning how to cross the road. In PSHE we have been learning about the Green Cross Code and have created our own safety videos. In Art we have been drawing with scissors, developing our scissor and cutting skills to create a range of pictures and collages. We have created our own stencils and used oil pastels to colour.

Year 4 – In Year 4, some children enjoyed taking part in a gymnastics competition at The Parks where they all had a lovely morning. In Art, the children have explored still life and worked hard to create their own still life painting. They created their own arrangement which they had to sketch, focusing on lines and shapes. They used watercolours to paint their sketch, mixing their colours and creating light and deep shades. The children enjoyed a 'Dogs Trust Workshop' yesterday learning more about dogs, how to look after them and how to safely pet them.

Year 5 – Year 5 went to the Newcastle Eagles Hoops for Health basketball tournament at the Vertu arena this week. Two teams played against many other teams from North Tyneside. They also went to the Centre for Life on Monday to take part in space workshops where they controlled robotic maintenance models and investigated space nappies. They explored lots of science exhibitions and saw many demonstrations.

Year 6 – Year 6 have continued to learn about Ernest Shackleton's Endurance expedition, finding out how the crewmates kept their morale high and using this to write diary entries in role as their chosen crew member. They have linked this in with their Computing LEGO League unit which is all about the ocean, thinking about how ROVs can be used to explore the deep sea. In Art, children have been very creative and produced art pieces linked to their identity. They have learned how to sing a Latin hymn in music focussing on polyphonic, homophonic and monophonic singing, as well as developing their oracy skills in French to talk about the sports they enjoy playing

Robinwood

Children in Year 4 and Year 6 enjoyed taking part in their three day residential visit to Robinwood in the first week of February. 'Lake Team' and 'Rapid Team' had an amazing time in Robinwood. All of the children showed real confidence, bravery, determination and resilience when taking part in a range of adventurous activities. A firm favourite was the Piranha Pool, solving problems and working together to escape the pool before the piranhas were released. The children also enjoyed caving, navigating around some very tight spaces! The Giant Swing, Zipwire and Trapeze took real courage and bravery and all children gave 100% effort!

Staffing News

Mrs Burston, Teaching Assistant, continues to be absent from work following planned surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her soon. Miss Calboutin continues to be the long term cover Teaching Assistant. Miss MacDougall continues to teach Year 4 in Miss Bates' absence.

Home- School Communication

We have dedicated email addresses for those members of staff who parents are in regular contact with regarding specific issues with children. This might include asking questions about upcoming meetings or incidents which may have occurred.

These members of staff are Mrs Hall, SENCO and Miss Cameron, Pupil Welfare Officer.

If any parent wants to send communication by email, the dedicated email addresses are:

Miss Cameron, Pupil Welfare Officer: parentsupport@riversideprimary.org.uk

Mrs Hall, SENCO: senco@riversideprimary.org.uk

No other email address should be used to contact these staff members. Parents should also understand that both of these members of staff have roles which involve weekly timetabled teaching time or sessions when they directly work with children and so emails sent may not be replied to immediately, but normally within 48 hours.

ReachMoreParents

We continue to enjoy sharing photographs and updates via our new school app. We are delighted that so many parents are also using the app to send messages to the School Office. Our sign up rate is now 93%, an increase from last month of 2%. We would love to reach 100% sign up so if you know of anyone who isn't yet signed up, please encourage them to do so.

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 the school office.

School Meals Ordering System – Hutchison’s Appetite

This is a further reminder to parents to order their child’s school meals in advance. There is regularly a long queue at the office in the mornings (particularly on a Monday!) and as a result, children are missing valuable learning. It would be really helpful if parents can order school meals for the next 6 weeks leading up to the Easter Holidays.

World Book Day

In order to support parents with costumes for their children for World Book Day on Thursday 6th March, we have received a donation of 99 costumes of a range of characters from fairy tales to superheroes which we are giving away FOR FREE to parents. These will be available from the office from Monday 3rd March. Parents can only collect one costume per child and we will operate on a first come, first served basis. Stock is limited so once it’s gone, it’s gone!

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 or speak to Miss Cameron, Pupil Welfare Officer. We are here to help.

Forward dates for March/April

Monday 3 rd March	School re-opens at 8.50am
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day
w/c 10 th March	Class Curriculum Information Leaflets uploaded to website
10 th – 14 th March	British Science Week in school: ‘Change and Adapt’
Tuesday 11 th March	LEGO League Challenge Regional Tournament
Tuesday 25 th March	Year 5 attending Norham for ‘Hairspray’ performance
Wednesday 26 th March	Parents Into Classrooms – Year 6 (2.50pm)
Thursday 27 th March	Parents Into Classrooms – Year 5 (2.50pm)
Friday 28 th March	March’s Newsletter published
Monday 31 st March	Parents Into Classrooms – Year 2 (2.50pm)
Tuesday 1 st April	Reception Stay and Play (2.50pm)
Wednesday 2 nd April	Parents Into Classrooms – Year 1 (2.50pm)
Thursday 3 rd April	Parents Into Classrooms – Year 3 (2.50pm)
Friday 4 th April	Nursery Stay and Play (11.00am)

Monday 7 th April	Parents Into Classrooms – Year 4 (2.50pm)
Tuesday 8 th April	Reception – Y6 Parental Consultations (face to face – in school) 3.30pm – 4.30pm* online booking system
Wednesday 9 th April	Reception – Y6 Parental Consultations (face to face – in school) 3.30pm – 4.30pm* online booking system
Thursday 10 th April	Nursery Parental Consultations (face to face – in school) 1.30pm – 2.30pm *online booking system
Thursday 10 th April	Easter Egg Competition
Friday 11 th April	April's Newsletter published
Friday 11 th April	School closes for Easter Holidays

School closes today for the half term holidays. We wish everyone an enjoyable holiday and a lovely rest and we look forward to seeing our children return on Monday 3rd March at 8.50am (or from 8.20am for Breakfast Club).