



MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to March's newsletter. Another month has flown by and we have been very busy in our learning here at Riverside. This month we have had a focus on our Riverside Rules and general school rules regarding behaviour, reflecting on the question, 'Why should I be good?' The children have also enjoyed World Book Day, World Maths Day, Science Week and learning about Lent in the run up to Easter.

Classroom News

Nursery – Nursery have had great fun planting seeds which the children took home to care for and they have been growing! We also put flowers in our plant pots to make our garden look pretty for the mini-beasts. We have been learning about life cycles through the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.'

Reception – This month, Reception has had a fantastic time exploring the topic of Kenya, learning about its culture, wildlife, and landscapes. The children have enjoyed looking at pictures of safaris and animals like lions, elephants, and giraffes, sparking lots of curiosity and questions. We've also been learning about spring, observing how plants and flowers grow, and talking about the changes in the weather. The children have been excited to watch the flowers bloom.

Year 1 – During Science Week, the children learnt all about Animals including Humans. They were able to identify the different animal groups and were also able to explain whether an animal is a carnivore, herbivore or omnivore. They are very excited to visit Blagdon Farm on Wednesday 2nd April to support their learning further! In Maths, they have been learning about length and they have been able to use a ruler to identify how many centimetres something is. They have had lots of fun in Geography learning about the weather and compass directions. They can recite the different compass directions perfectly ... Never Eat Shredded Wheat!

Year 2 – Year 2 have enjoyed learning about hot and cold places around the world. They can now locate the North and South Pole on a world map as well as countries located on or near the Equator. They are beginning to learn how vehicles move and are looking forward to working in teams to make their own moving vehicles. They very much look forward to their weekly check-in on a Monday morning where they are becoming confident to set themselves achievable goals for the week.

Year 3 – Year 3 enjoyed taking part in Science Week, exploring the topic of magnets and forces, and the children loved welcoming their parents and carers to the classroom to show their science work. The children have started their Lego League computing unit and have shown teamwork and resilience when following instructions to put pieces together and learn about submarines under the sea. We have now completed our Friends Resilience Programme with Beth from Connect Mental Health, which the children looked forward to each week and from which they learned strategies for regulating emotions and maintaining positive relationships. The children have been learning about Antarctica in Geography, and have been having a big challenge – sewing! They will be sewing bookmarks from their own designs in DT. We have been doing tennis and gymnastics in PE.

Year 4 – In Year 4, children enjoyed celebrating World Book Day, along with their visit to the library, where they met author, Jack Jackman. This half-term, our English text has been focussed on refugees. The children have been engaged in learning about the lives of refugees and refugee camps, demonstrating their understanding through discussions, writing and role play. The children have loved sewing their Anglo-Saxon purses demonstrating patience and determination! The children also had an amazing afternoon participating in the Skipping School competition, with some winning bronze and silver awards.

Year 5 – Ten pupils from Year 5 represented the school in a Hockey tournament at The Parks yesterday afternoon where there were another 11 other North Tyneside schools competing. Our team played 3 games and won two of them! There was excellent team spirit and a very well done to Layla and Billy-Jo who scored the goals. Year 5 also enjoyed a trip to Norham High School this week to watch their production of Hairspray, the Musical. Not only were there really good songs and dancing but there were very important messages about segregation in America in the 1960's. Year 5 have also enjoyed activities during Science Week and doing 'different' maths during World Maths Day.

Year 6 – Children have been working hard on coastal pollution pieces in DT linked with plastic pollution. They have been designing sewing pieces that use the same rubbish that could end up in our local oceans or washing up on our beaches. They have continued to create fantastic pieces of writing in English linked to refugees and the journeys refugees make to find safety and shelter. They have learnt about population in Geography, thinking what the push and pull factors are that may cause people to stay or leave a particular country and in Science, they have been finding out how to classify living organisms into groups, as well as conducting their own mould microorganism experiment.

Friends Resilience

Year 3 have now completed their 6 week programme of a 'Friends Resilience' workshop which was delivered by Beth from Connect MHST (Mental Health Support Team) in North Tyneside. This is a social skills and resilience curriculum that teaches children to rise to challenges and bounce back from setbacks. The programme also improves social-emotional skills, the ability to focus, confidence, the capacity to relax, regulate emotions, and develop empathy.

Enhanced Transition Programme

Some pupils in Year 6 have begun a 5 week outreach programme with a member of staff from North Tyneside's School Support Team which focuses on getting to know the pupils, identifying and supporting with their worries and looking further into what life is like in high school. The pupils will have opportunities to ask questions and find out about things that will prepare them for life in high school. A whole school session is due to take place on Thursday 19th June where all Year 6 pupils will engage in a workshop about transition to High School.

CONNECT Mental Health Support Teams

Amy from CONNECT visited Year 6 to deliver a workshop on how to manage stress and anxiety in the run up to SATS. She talked to the children about how to manage their health and wellbeing and shared techniques and strategies for coping with worries.

Young Carers

We have partnered with The Young Carers Centre in North Tyneside to deliver a Young Carers Support Group in school. There is a lunchtime club every Wednesday where all people identified as a Young Carer can meet, socialise, and take part in exciting and fun projects which they design themselves. We have a growing number of identified Young Carers in Riverside and this is our way of offering them support. Miss Cameron, Pupil Welfare Officer, is our Young Carers Champion.

Living Streets 'Walk to School' Challenge

Sam Prior from Living Streets introduced the Walk to School challenge in a whole school assembly last week and the children began their challenge on Monday! Every morning, the children have to log onto an online tracker to show how they travelled to school that morning. There are opportunities for children to win badges too!

Parent Workshop

At the beginning of the month we hosted a workshop for parents on 'Managing Behaviour' which was well attended. This was a 90 minute session where general strategies and techniques for use in the home were shared and then parents had the opportunity to ask questions about their own experiences. All parents who attended gave very positive feedback. We would hope to deliver this workshop again in the future.

Parents into Classrooms Events

We began these 'showcase' afternoons this week, with open classrooms from 2.50pm for Year 6 on Wednesday and Year 5 on Thursday. These events replace our previous 'Showcase Assemblies' which were more formal. We chose to change to a more informal event this term as a lot of our children are very nervous when having to perform in front of an audience. This new way allows children to share their learning with their families and also take part in joint learning activities. A proportion of children are presented with a certificate of achievement and a token prize by the Headteacher at these events too. The remaining 'Parents into Classroom' events will take place next week when Nursery and Reception will be hosting a 'Stay and Play' too.

Book Fair

We hosted our annual Book Fair from 10th – 14th March and it was very busy both before school and after school! All the classes took time to visit the fair during the school day to look through the books and decide which ones to buy! Thanks to your generosity, we raised just over £280 which we will use to buy new books for our classrooms.

Staffing News

Mrs Burston, Teaching Assistant, will be returning to school on Monday, following her period of absence. She will return on a part-time basis, initially, on a process which is called a 'Phased Return' before returning full time. We look forward to seeing her! Miss MacDougall continues to teach Year 4 to cover for Miss Bates who is continuing to receive treatment for cancer.

Building Projects

We are currently completing one project in school and are about to embark on another where we are creating new indoor learning spaces which will provide support to meet the range of needs of our children. The Retreat has been created at the top part of our school and it has two rooms: The Hut and The Cabin. The Hut is designed to meet the needs of our younger pupils who have sensory processing difficulties and The Cabin is a calm learning space where pupils can be supported to complete their learning in a comfortable, quiet environment with minimal distraction. We are also transforming the existing Library (which is next to the Nursery and the Reception classes) into a specially designed provision for our youngest children who have the highest needs of SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). This purpose built space will have a high adult to child ratio and will provide a personalised curriculum for those pupils. We are very excited about these new spaces and both are planned to open when we return to school after Easter

ReachMoreParents

Thank you for your engagement with our new school app. We find it the most convenient way to communicate information to parents as well as sharing photographs which showcase the learning which is taking place in school. If you have any feedback, we'd love to hear from you!

Class Dojo

We are now delighted to be able to share with you your child's weekly Dojo points. Pupils are awarded dojos when they demonstrate that they are following the Riverside Rules and now this is something you can share and celebrate at home with your child when you see how many points they have been awarded each week. If you haven't yet signed up, please do so. Teachers have placed QR codes in their classroom windows which will allow you to sign up.

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 helpful (and take up less time for Office staff every morning) if parents order school meals in advance.

Forward dates for April

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
Monday 28 th April	School re-opens for Summer Term