



MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to May's newsletter. This has been a very short half term (due to the late Easter Holiday) but we have continued to be very busy here at Riverside! Please do read on to find out what has been happening.

Classroom News

Nursery – Nursery have had great fun exploring different types of transport through books and small world play. They extended this by making their own buses, planes and trains using chairs in the outside area. Our favourite story has been 'The Naughty Bus'. The children have really enjoyed learning about his adventures – so much so we are going to try and make our own story. We also have explored sinking and floating when exploring boats.

Reception – This half term the children have really enjoyed reading 'Clem and Crab', learning all about how rubbish can harm our oceans and the importance of recycling to help protect sea life. They've also had lots of fun exploring the world of mini-beasts and other animals with plenty of imaginative role play happening in our vet's corner!

Year 1 – During Summer 1, Year 1 have been learning about four famous explorers in History – Dame Ellen MacArthur, Christopher Columbus, Matthew Henson and Mary Kingsley. They have been able to explain and identify what explorers would need before they travel. They have been very creative in Art making their own sculptures and also medals – they all look fantastic! They have just finished reading 'Somebody Swallowed Stanley' in English which they thoroughly enjoyed. They have learnt why single-use plastic is so bad for our oceans and what they can do to save the turtles and other sea creatures. On Monday of this week, they took part in a Multiskills Festival at NUcastle which they really enjoyed (see photos on the School App!)

Year 2 – In History, the children have been learning about the monarchy. They found out about our current monarch, King Charles, and discussed his key roles and responsibilities before using role play to act out his Coronation. They then explored how William the Conqueror became the monarch in 1066 by winning the Battle of Hastings and found out about Norman castles that were built in England. In Art, the children have begun their sculpture unit by making worry dolls as well as using a variety of materials to make 'roots and shoots' sculptures. In English, the children went on a walk around our school grounds and identified which areas there was more litter. They then wrote a letter explaining what they found and focused on adding suffixes 'er' and 'est' to adjectives. This half term, the children set themselves a goal to focus on their handwriting and presentation in their books and they are all making great progress to achieve this!

Year 3 – Year 3 have worked hard during Maths when working with money and telling the time. In English we have found out about rivers and will be writing an information text about the dangers facing rivers such as pollution and flooding. We are enjoying Guided Reading sessions, reading about Grace and the dragons at 'Wondermere'. In PE, we have enjoyed the warm, sunny weather and have been taking part in Outdoor Adventure Activities and also Athletics. In History, we are exploring Ancient Egypt and have been learning about the River Nile and hieroglyphics. We are working hard in Computing, working with Lego, programming and using algorithms.

Year 4 – This half-term in Year 4, our English work has been inspired by Alba the 100-Year-Old Fish, linking to our whole-school environment theme. Children have held thoughtful discussions about plastic pollution, its impact on the ocean, and what we can do to help protect marine life. In Science, we've explored states of matter, carrying out fun investigations to understand the differences between solids, liquids, and gases—such as melting butter to observe it change state. In Computing, children are really enjoying LEGO League, working collaboratively to build and program models. Lastly, a big well done to all of Year 4 for their fantastic effort and enthusiasm in swimming—everyone has shown determination and they have thoroughly enjoyed it so far!

Year 5 – This half term, Year 5 children took part in a Trail and Challenge orienteering event at the Rising Sun Country Park organised by the North Tyneside PESSPA (PE School Sports Participation Physical Activity). Several other schools attended the same morning and small groups of children read a map of the area to find their way to 13 marked locations. This activity consolidated our Outdoor Adventurous Activity PE unit in school. One of our groups managed to get to all locations in the time given and they all enjoyed the activity

Year 6 – Year 6 have worked so hard in the build up to their SATs. They focused on reading and continued to practise retrieval, inference and summarising skills. In maths, they continued to practise lots of different arithmetic skills as well as learning all about shapes and angles. They have produced excellent digital art in the style of Andy Warhol in Computing and have been creating excellent shadow puppets in Art. They are finding out all about the Sikh Empire in History and have been thinking all about boundaries and staying safe in PSHE. They celebrated finishing SATs Week in style, having a three-course lunch at Davanti's! They have really made us proud of all of their efforts!

Community Market @ Riverside

We are very pleased that we have been able to secure funding to set up a non-profit community market within school. This enables parents to buy groceries and other items, such as cleaning materials, at a significantly reduced cost. We have a number of 'deals' on at the moment eg 5 items for £10, £5 or £2 (depending on what they are) and we are open, currently, on a Tuesday morning (at 9.00am) and a Thursday afternoon (at 2.30pm). Please note that whatever you purchase **does not benefit the school in any way. School DOES NOT make a profit from takings.** Instead, takings are used to purchase more items for the community market that are what parents want to buy. We invite you to come and take a look.

Sunshine Awards

At the beginning of this term, we launched a new incentive which rewards good behaviour called the 'Sunshine Award'. This is for those pupils who always have their name around the sun – in other words, they've never broken a Riverside Rule and had their name put on a cloud. Winners of this prestigious award will be presented with a certificate and sunshine pin badge by Miss Cameron at a special assembly on Friday 6th June. For those children who didn't manage to have their name 'always' around the sun during this half term, they can start again on 2nd June: certificates for the next half term will be awarded on 17th July.

MINUS Time – information sharing

In order to continue to build greater home-school communication and sharing information with parents, we are now emailing parents on a Friday afternoon if their child has been in 'MINUS Time' – this means they've broken Riverside Rules throughout the week, have had their name 'put on a cloud' but haven't been able to earn back enough time to access the full session of the PL4US Time activity they chose.

Staffing News

Mrs Burston, Teaching Assistant, has now returned to school, full time, following her period of absence. Miss MacDougall continues to teach Year 4 to cover for Miss Bates who is continuing to receive treatment for cancer. You

may have noticed that Miss Cooper is pregnant and she will be taking her maternity leave, commencing in September. The school is in the process of recruiting a maternity cover teacher.

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 share with you your child's weekly Dojo points. Pupils are awarded dojos when they demonstrate that they are following the Riverside Rules and this positive behaviour is something you can now share and celebrate at home with your child when you see how many points they have been awarded each week.

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. This will ensure they get the meal of their choice and won't be disappointed.

Forward dates for Summer 2 (2nd June – 18th July)

Monday 2 nd June	School re-opens at 8.50am
2 nd – 13 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
Monday 9 th June	School Photographer – class photographs and Year 6 Leavers
9 th – 13 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
16 th – 20 th June	International Learning Week
Wednesday 25 th June	International Showcase (whole school) outdoor event at 2.00pm
Friday 27 th June	June's Newsletter published
Monday 30 th June	Year 5 'Parents into Classrooms' – 2.50pm
Tuesday 1 st July	Year 1 'Parents into Classrooms' – 2.50pm
Wednesday 2 nd July	Year 2 'Parents into Classrooms' – 2.50pm
Thursday 3 rd July	Year 3 'Parents into Classrooms' – 2.50pm
Monday 7 th July	Reception 'Stay and Play' – 2.50pm
Monday 7 th July	Annual Reports to Parents
Tuesday 8 th July	Transition Morning
Tuesday 8 th July	Year 4 'Parents into Classrooms' – 2.50pm
Wednesday 9 th July	KS2 Summer Beach Trip – Tynemouth Longsands
Thursday 10 th July	Sports Day – 2.00pm
Friday 11 th July	Reception & KS1 Summer Beach Trip – Cullercoats Bay
Wednesday 16 th July	Nursery Graduation followed by Garden Party (11.00am)
Wednesday 16 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly for parents (2.00pm – 3.00pm)
Thursday 17 th July	Summer Fair – 1.30pm
Thursday 17 th July	July's Newsletter published
Thursday 17 th July	School Closes for Summer Break
Friday 18 th July	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING

School closes today at 12.50pm for staff training this afternoon. School is also closed on Friday 23rd May for Staff Training.

We re-open on Monday 2nd June at 8.50am (8.20am for Breakfast Club).

On behalf of everyone here at Riverside, I wish you a very happy half term holiday. Let's hope the sun shines and the weather is warmer for us all!