



JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to June's newsletter. We've had a mixture of weather this month with extreme temperatures one week and then downpours the next! During the very high temperatures of last week we implemented our Extreme Weather procedures which ensured pupils and staff were kept cool in the heat. This month has also been very busy in school with visits out and visitors in and, of course, our very popular International Learning week last week and the Showcase event for parents on Wednesday. Do read on to find out what's been happening at Riverside this month as well as some important reminders and forward dates for July.

Classroom News

Nursery – Nursery have loved learning about traditional tales from our country as well as some from other countries. There was a fantastic turn out from parents and carers for their own international 'stay and play' event last Friday in which we celebrated our country, England, by singing a song, sharing a dance and making delicious English food. Our Victoria sponges were a great success!

Reception – This month, Reception class have had a fantastic time learning all about pirates and ships; exploring what materials float and sink through lots of fun water play which helped keep us cool during the lovely sunny weather. For international week, the children learned all about Scotland. We made our own delicious shortbread, learnt the Highland fling and created our own tartan patterns for kilts. We also loved hearing the myth of the Loch Ness Monster and imagining what creatures could be lurking under the water. The children and staff were really proud of their performance during the showcase event on Wednesday. Well done Reception!

Year 1 – This month, Year 1 have been reading 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in their English lessons. Whilst studying this play by William Shakespeare, they have used adjectives to describe character's looks and personality and they have used suffixes to detail their writing. In Geography, they have been learning about Shanghai and they are able to explain where Shanghai is in the world, using a map. In Science, the children are able to explain whether plants are garden or wild plants as well as being able to identify if a tree is evergreen or deciduous. They learnt about Wales for International Week and demonstrated a Welsh Folk Dance for the International Showcase event. They all participated in making Welsh cakes too. We hope you liked them!!

Year 2 – Year 2 enjoyed learning about Northern Ireland as part of International Week. They particularly enjoyed listening to the tale about how the Giant's Causeway came to be! In DT, the children have immersed themselves in our food tasting lessons. We tasted different types of bread and different toppings which the children will use to inform their own designs for their pizzas! In Geography, the children have been learning about the coast. They have learnt about features of coasts and identified different coastal areas of the UK using Google Earth and the atlases. They are looking forward to their trip to the coast to explore human and physical features of our coastline at Cullercoats.

Year 3 – Year 3 have learnt about Spain during International Week. We have located Spain on a map of the world and have enjoyed watching videos of festivals such as La Tomatina. We really enjoyed cooking mantecados (Spanish shortbread) and patatas bravas. In RE, we have been learning about Islam and we have compared rituals at birth and marriage with Christian celebrations. We have also enjoyed exploring settlements in Geography and locating physical and human features on a map of our local area.

Year 4 – In Year 4, the children have loved participating in performances during our English lessons as part of our Shakespeare topic. They have been keen to learn about Julius Caesar, explore play scripts and begin to write play scripts. In Science, the children have been engaged in learning about 'Living things and their habitats'. They have created their own Venn diagrams choosing how to group a range of animals. The children have loved international learning week and were able to share their knowledge of Italy – we explored where it is in the world, what the weather is like and different landmarks. I was so impressed with all the children during our International Showcase event on Wednesday. They did amazingly well learning the Tarantella dance and enjoyed trying a variety of Italian food!

Year 5 – Yesterday, Year 5 went to Kings Priory School to watch their production of Joseph and the Technicolour Dream Coat along with other Year 5 students from local schools. They also attended a 'Healthy for Life' festival at The Parks Leisure Centre this month where they completed a session of cycling following a marked course, as well as taking part in basketball, hockey, dodge ball and a session about healthy mental health. Two Riverside pupils learned how to ride a bike at the festival and returned to school absolutely over the moon!

Year 6 – As part of International Week. Year 6 enjoyed studying Brazil, learning about the location, its population as well as finding out the people who live in Brazil and the languages they speak and cultures and traditions they follow. We have enjoyed performing La Samba as part of the Showcase event. In Geography, they have been carrying out an enquiry into the local area and the children have decided to find out about the different locations of graffiti in the local area. They hope to find out people's views from the community and find out about what could be done to stop this. In DT, the pupils have enjoyed making and tasting burgers. We have made turkey, beef, chick pea and Quorn burgers. The children demonstrated excellent skills and the burgers were really tasty, if a little dry. We are making Salsa soon which should make the burgers even tastier!

International Showcase Event

We were thrilled to see such a great turn out of parents, carers and families at our outdoor International Showcase event on Wednesday. The whole school opening song, 'Let Love Shine Through' an upbeat celebration of diversity and individuality, encouraging people to embrace what makes them unique, was sang beautifully by the children. Then followed traditional dances from all the countries the classes had been learning about in our International Learning week: Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Spain, Italy, Canada and Brazil. We hope you enjoyed the entertainment, followed by the food sampling. Thankfully, the weather was perfect, this year! Thank you for your support for this event – it is one of the summer highlights of our annual calendar and the children have great fun!

Careers Week

We are very excited to be hosting a Careers Week in school next week. We have invited a number of ex-Riverside pupils to school to talk to the children in whole school assemblies about their educational journey after they left Riverside, and the career path they chose. We have ensured there are a wide variety of speakers who have explored very different paths and we aim to inspire our pupils to 'Dream Big' about their own ambitions in the future. The children will also take part in age-appropriate activities linked to future careers during lessons next week.

Items from home

We would like to remind parents that we do not allow children to bring in items from home. This includes the latest plush toy craze of Labubu dolls which have started to appear on packed lunch bags, recently. School is able to provide all pupils access to plush toys as part of the resources we offer in The Hut. Similarly, pupils should not bring their own Fidget Toys in from home (unless this is agreed between the SENCO and parents) as there are baskets of fidget toys in every classroom. The Hut and The Cabin (in our newly created Retreat) also have an abundance of sensory toys for pupils to use to support regulation.

Community Market @ Riverside

We would like to remind parents that we have a community market in school which is open twice a week: Tuesday morning (at 9.00am) and 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. This is a way for you to benefit in making great savings by buying staple cupboard food stuffs and other items at a significantly reduced price – much cheaper than local shops and supermarkets.

Sunshine Awards

A reminder that our new Sunshine Award for the second half term of the summer term commenced on 2nd June. For those children who always have their name 'around the sun' and never have their name 'put on the cloud', they will be presented with a certificate and a Sunshine pin badge at a special assembly on 17th July.

MINUS Time – information sharing

In order to continue to build greater home-school communication and sharing information with parents, we now email 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.

Jamie Knight – Freestyle Footballer

We welcomed Jamie Knight, a freestyle footballer, into Riverside, on 18th June. He delivered a whole class assembly where he performed his amazing football tricks and even asked teachers to demonstrate some tricks! He then delivered workshops to every class across the school. At the end of the day, children from across the school were invited to a masterclass event on the yard and parents enjoyed watching his tricks too! There was an opportunity at the end of the masterclass for photographs with Jamie and the signing of autographs (mainly on pupils' t-shirts!)

Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade (TVLB)

We had the Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade team in school last week, along with their rescue vehicle, 'Billy'. The volunteers were Mike, Donna and Heather who reinforced the important message of how to stay safe near water. The volunteers showed the children the various flags used on the beach, hazards on the beach and who to and how to call for help. Their message was: "Carelessness around water can be life threatening" and so it is essential that we educate the children of Riverside, EVERY YEAR IN THE SUMMER, about staying safe near water!

Tempest Martial Arts Workshops

Ricky, from Tempest Martial Arts, led a Nunchuck workshop for four classes across the school yesterday. All children were engaged and thoroughly enjoyed the session. Ricky linked the values of respect and self-belief and told the children that with focus, we can achieve anything!

Staffing News

Miss Embleton, Year 6 teacher is currently absent from work due to sickness. Year 6 are currently being taught by Mrs Ready, Mrs Hall and Mrs O'Malley (which is helping to prepare them for secondary school when they will have many different teachers!) Miss Embleton has also decided to leave Riverside, after 4 years, at the end of term to pursue a different career path. Staffing for the new academic year will be included in the Annual Report sent home on 7th July. The children will also find out who their new teacher for next year will be during an assembly next week.

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 (30th June – 18th July)

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