



JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to July's Newsletter and the last newsletter of this academic year. And what a busy year it has been. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to present certificates at this week's Nursery Graduation and Year 6 Leaver's Assembly. Our Nursery graduates are returning to us in September when they join 'big school' for the first time and our Year 6 pupils are excited to embark on their secondary education journey. We are delighted that we have been able to support them all along the way. They have made so much progress academically, socially and personally and it has been a privilege to be part of the learning journey of each and every one of them! As the staff at Riverside come to the end of another school year, we always take the opportunity to reflect on our achievements, evaluate what we have delivered and begin to make plans for even greater improvements and successes next year!

Staffing Update

We will be saying farewell and 'Good Luck' to a few Riverside staff at the end of term:

- Miss Embleton, Year 6 teacher, who has left Riverside to embark on a different career path outside of teaching.
- Miss Calboutin, Teaching Assistant, who has also decided to follow a different future career path after the end of her fixed term contract with us.
- Miss Cooper, Year 2 teacher, who is leaving Riverside, temporarily, to have a baby who is due in the summer. We wish her the very best of luck and I look forward to sharing 'baby news' with you in September, when we return.

SCHOOL NEWS UPDATE

- Annual Reports to Parents were sent home on Monday of last week. We changed the design of our reports to a one-page simple format with effort and achievement grades for all subjects in addition to a written comment from the class teacher. Parental feedback so far has been exceptionally positive and so we will continue with these style of reports next year.
- KS2 SATs results were given to the Year 6 children on Tuesday of last week. A very 'well done' to our Year 6 children who collectively achieved 59% Combined (Reading, Writing and Mathematics) which fell slightly behind the National Average of 62%. Our biggest success was in English Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation (SPAG) where we achieved a 12% increase in outcomes compared to 2024.
- Year 6 pupils have taken part in many transition activities with their high schools. They have enjoyed a range of experiences and meeting members of staff and making new friends.
- We held a lovely Nursery Graduation yesterday morning. All our young superstars looked wonderful in their purple 'cap and gown' as they received their graduation 'scroll' and had their photos taken. We hope parents enjoyed seeing photographs of their learning, hearing about what they have enjoyed in nursery and finding out what their child would like to be when they grow up!
- The Year 6 Leaver's Assembly took place yesterday afternoon. The children put on an entertaining musical performance and shared their 'Riverside Memories' with their parents and loved ones followed by being presented with their 'Mrs Ready's Special Award' certificates. On behalf of all the staff at Riverside, we wish them lots of luck in high school and beyond and we hope they achieve the aspirations they shared at the assembly.

- Children attended their traditional beach trips with the younger children spending a day at Cullercoats beach and the older children having a day of beach fun at Tynemouth Longsands. As you know, due to the very high temperatures on both days, we amended the trips slightly so that the second half was a 'Fun Day' in school where we could guarantee shelter/shade and an endless supply of drinking water to ensure everyone was comfortable in the heat.
- Our annual Sports Day was a great success this year and we feel it was the best yet! We changed the format slightly to enable parents to follow their child round easier and we have received positive feedback regarding this.
- Careers Week was a great success! We were delighted to welcome so many ex-Riverside pupils who gave up their time to talk to the children about what they did when they left primary school, and what they are currently working/studying now. Some of our children were really inspired and a lot of them want to choose a career which will allow them to travel and see the world! Having been the Headteacher of this school for 15 years, and having taught at the school for 27 years, it makes me immensely proud to see how successful our ex-pupils have become.
- We enjoyed welcoming our Nursery 'graduates' to have a school meal with their parent/carer last week so that both children and their grown-ups could see and experience a school lunch prior to them starting full time school in September. Christine, the cook, and her team served a roast chicken dinner with a choice of pudding and we were pleased that so many of the grown-ups choose to have a meal alongside their child too.
- On Tuesday, we welcomed Lynn from North Tyneside Council to deliver an age-appropriate Road Safety workshop to all classes across the school. This safety awareness session complements our recent workshops on water safety delivered by Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade. These two visitor workshops support the PSHE Curriculum taught in school.

Attendance and Punctuality Awards

A huge congratulations to the winners of our FULL YEAR 100% Attendance Awards – Ava G, Thea, Connor, Aiylah, Meiyah and Shalom who received a certificate, a purple enamel badge and an Amazon Voucher.

And another congratulations to 20 pupils who had 100% attendance and perfect punctuality for the Summer Term. They received a certificate, a star badge and an Amazon Voucher. This summer term has been the highest term for 100% attendance and perfect punctuality and we hope this improvement in attendance continues in September.

Attendance – Class of the Week Leaderboard Award

Congratulations to Year 4 who enjoyed a fun afternoon at Linea Park yesterday afternoon in recognition of having the best attendance for the summer term.....however, what is an even greater accomplishment is that Year 4 had the best attendance in the autumn term AND the best attendance in the spring term so they are most definitely the Attendance Stars for ALL of 24/25!!

Sunshine Award

This morning, we presented certificates and sunshine pin badges to all of those children who have never had their name 'on the cloud' this half term, meaning they have meticulously followed the Riverside Rules for this half term – 7 weeks in total! In September, we will be slightly amending this special achievement award in that it will be extended to a pupil having their name 'always around the Sun' for the full term!

School Uniform Expectations and PE Kit

We would like to remind you of our school dress code for pupils which states what we expect pupils to wear to school. This includes black school shoes or plain black trainers, plimsolls for indoors and no jewellery except one pair of earrings and a watch. We do not allow children to come to school with dyed hair (temporary or permanent dye), wearing make-up (including body make up eg fake tan), nail varnish (including 'gel' nails, 'acrylic' nails or any type of artificial nail extension), temporary tattoos or body piercings.

Children are required to come to school on their PE days wearing their PE kit. Your child's class teacher will notify you of your pupil's PE days. If this is Tuesday 2nd September, you will receive a text message from the School Office on our Staff Training Day on Monday 1st September.

Bikes and Scooters

Despite the very many reminders that pupils – and parents – should not ride bikes and scooters in the yard to reduce the risk of accidents/injury, unfortunately, this message often goes largely ignored, especially at home-time when many pupils want to leave school quickly. Therefore, to try to manage those on wheels and those who choose to walk, over the summer holidays we are installing a specially designed 'cycle path' on the playground which will run from just inside the white gates and along the field up towards the Cycle Shelter. Hopefully, this should separate cyclists/scooters and those who walk and therefore reduce the likelihood of accident or injury.

Summer Fair

We end the school year in the traditional way with our annual Summer Fair this afternoon. We have some new stalls and a wider range of things to buy and do. All stalls will be on the playground this year – previously we have had refreshments and the Tombola in the school hall. Everything will be in the open air this year. (Fingers crossed for good weather...). We hope you have an enjoyable afternoon! All proceeds from the Fair will go into our School Fund – the pot of extra money that enables us to purchase nice treats for our children! I will let you know how much we raised in my September Welcome letter.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for their support and for their cooperation in working in partnership with the school to support their child's educational development and progress.

As the summer holidays begin, the staff of Riverside commence their well-earned summer break. On behalf of myself and all the staff, we would like to wish all our families a very happy holidays. ...

We look forward to welcoming all our pupils, and some new pupils too, when school re-opens for the new academic year at 8.50am (or if you attend Breakfast Club, 8.20am) on Tuesday 2nd September, 2025.

Mrs A Yilmaz
Headteacher