



SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back Everyone!

Dear Parents,

I would like to offer a very warm 'Welcome Back' to our pupils and families and a 'Special Welcome' to our new pupils and parents this year. At Riverside, your children's well-being is our priority and we will support them in achieving the very best they can, both academically and socially. We pride ourselves on being a fully inclusive school; delivering the best appropriate provision possible to meet the needs of all individuals.

I was delighted to greet our pupils on the gate this morning. Everyone looked so smart in their school uniform! During whole school assembly this morning, I talked to the children about reflecting on their achievements from last year and what their goals were for the new academic year. The key message was that we cannot change what happened in the past year but we can determine what the new school year will be, by making wise and sensible choices.

Staffing News

Miss Bates, Year 3 teacher, remains on long term sickness absence. The children are being taught by Mrs Quinn, an experienced teacher. Mrs O'Malley, Year 5 teacher, is currently absent due to illness. The children are being taught by Mr Newsome, again, an experienced teacher. Both Mrs Quinn and Mr Newsome attended our staff training day yesterday and are already fully integrated into the structure and expectations of education here at Riverside.

I am delighted to let you know that Miss Cooper gave birth to a baby boy, Ollie, over the summer. Both mother and baby are well and I am sure Miss Cooper will bring baby Ollie into school, soon.

Congratulations, too, to Miss Cameron, our Pupil Welfare Officer, who got engaged over the summer!

Summer Works

During the six week's holidays, we have had a couple of projects carried out. We have had new grey windows installed in communal areas in school – corridors, staffroom, Garden Room. This was the second stage of new window installation (last summer we had new windows installed in classrooms) so now all windows are new and upgraded.

We have also had a cycle lane painted on the playground which runs from the white gate, along the school field, up to the bike shed. Children on bikes and scooters can now use this track, keeping within the yellow lines, to ride their bikes/scooters to and from the cycle shed.

Daily Communication

We have a number of staff available and visible before and after school if you wish to speak to someone or you have a question you'd like answered:

- I am on the gate every morning, from 8.30am, for questions, queries or just a chat!
- Miss Cameron, Pupil Welfare Officer, is on the Breakfast Club door from 8.20am every morning and on the reception desk in the main entrance from 8.50am – 9.30am, daily.
- Mrs Hall, SENDCo, is out on the playground on a Monday and a Thursday at 3.00pm, if you have any concerns about your child's learning and progress.

School Office

The School Office is open Monday to Thursday from 8.00am - 4.00pm and 8.00am - 3.30pm on Friday. The school answerphone is in use outside of these times if you wish to leave message or request a call back. All messages are picked up at 8.00am. The school office staff are Mrs Taylor, School Business Manager, and Miss Clay, Administration Assistant.

Forward Dates

Forward Dates for the autumn term will be uploaded to the school website soon and they will also be added to the school calendar on the home page of the school website.

Please note, whilst we try to stick to the dates and times for events, occasionally it may be necessary to make a change. We will keep you updated of any changes via our text message service and on the website. We try to give as much notice as possible of changes but sometimes this is unavoidable.

Monthly Newsletters

Newsletters are published on the school website on the last Friday of the month and you will receive a text message with a link to the newsletter. The newsletter contains valuable and relevant information for parents and carers about school and updates you need to know about so please do take five minutes to read it so that nothing is a 'surprise'!! We aim to make you aware of the important things that are happening in school which will affect you and your children and communicate this through our newsletter.

ReachMoreParents

We have a school app which we use to share news via a newsfeed, send messages, obtain permission slips for trips and post photos of children's learning. It is our best communication tool because it is instant and the alerts go straight to your phone.

Attendance and Absence

Attendance at school is crucial to ensuring all children achieve to the best of their ability. In recognition of a pupil's achievement in being at school every day **and on time**, we present certificates and badges for children who have 100% attendance and punctuality. This works on a termly basis so those children who have been at school every day and on time for the whole of the autumn term, will be presented with their award at the last assembly on 19th December, 2025. This will be repeated for children who have 100% attendance for the Spring Term, and then again for the summer term. However, for any children who have been at school every day, **and on time**, FOR THE FULL YEAR will receive a certificate, a special enamel pin badge and an Amazon voucher on the last assembly of the academic year on Thursday 16th July, 2026!

Term Time Holidays

We would like to remind you that we do not authorise leave of absence during term time for the purpose of Family Holidays. Parents who take their children on holiday during term time are likely to receive a Penalty Notice from the Local Authority Attendance and Placement Service.

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.

School Day

A reminder that, our school day will **start at 8.50am** and **finishes at 3.20pm**.

Breakfast Club operates from 8.20am until 8.40am. Remember: entrance to Breakfast Club is via the school playground and NOT the rear car park of the Riverside Centre.

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 Miss Cameron.

Health and Safety

I would like to remind parents that there are signs on the entrances to the school premises which prohibit smoking or the use of vapes on the school yard. Additional signs show that we do not allow electric bikes or electric scooters on the yard. Furthermore, dogs are not allowed on the yard – this includes puppies and small dogs which can be carried.

School Uniform Expectations and PE Kit

We would like to remind you of our school dress code for pupils which clearly 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 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. If your child has had/worn any of these over the six weeks summer holiday, they need to be removed for school.

Please note: children are required to come to school on their PE days wearing their PE kit.

Pupil Birthdays – Reminder

Pupils must not bring in birthday cakes or sweets to share with their classmates on their birthday. This is because it contravenes our school's Health Eating Policy and we are having an increasing number of pupils with allergies and food intolerances.

However, when it is your child's birthday on a school day, they receive 'Special Day Provision' on that day. They are given a birthday hat and badge to wear all day, their classmates sing Happy Birthday to them in the morning and there is the option of the child having all pupils sing Happy Birthday to them in the dinner hall at lunchtime!

Playground Toys / Other items from home – Reminder

We would also like to remind parents that pupils are not allowed to bring in items from home to play with at playtimes and lunchtimes. This includes footballs and skipping ropes. The Sports Councillors and OPAL Play Buddies will ensure there is adequate SCHOOL equipment and resources for children to play with. Pupils are not allowed to bring in soft toys, fidget toys or Labubu dolls either – we have a wide range of resources your child can access, if they need to.

Children should not bring in pencil cases from home. All equipment required for learning – pencils, pens, rulers, felt pens, scissors etc – will be provided by the school. We discourage the bringing in of rucksacks/backpacks/tote bags as they take up too much space in our cloakrooms. Children need only to bring in their purple reading folder (if they have one) for their Home Reading Book, the clear School Book Bag (for Read, Write, Inc home reading books), and a sturdy packed lunch box if they do not eat a school meal at lunchtime.

KS2 SWIMMING

On the days when pupils in Years 4–6 go swimming (which is a Wednesday) pupils need only to bring in a small kit bag or a carrier bag containing a swimming costume and a towel. Large and bulky bags for swimming kit are unnecessary and again, take up too much space in the cloakrooms.

School Meals Ordering System – Hutchison's Appetite

Can we please remind parents to order their child's school meals in advance. We understand it may have been something you forgot to do in the holidays! However, children were reminded of this during assembly. If they haven't ordered their choice of meal beforehand, there is a chance their choice may not be available.