



# SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to September's newsletter. The first few weeks of term have flown by and I can't believe it's October next week! The children of Riverside have settled in well to their new classes, have got to know some new pupils and staff, and have enjoyed starting new topics in History and RE as well as a different way of working in our new maths lessons!

## Classroom News

**Nursery** – The nursery children are settling in well. We have had quite a few new starters this term and the children from last year are helping them settle in. Staff are supporting the children in how to follow our rules and routines so we can have a fantastic year. So far, we have been looking for colours with brown bear and going on a bear hunt!

**Reception** – Reception have settled really well into school and into their new routines. They have learnt about 'Ourselves' and differences between their family and other families. They have enjoyed painting self-portraits and making a self-portrait out of healthy foods! They have also begun learning about their local area.

**Year 1** – Year 1 have started the new school year full of confidence and enthusiasm. In Science, we have been exploring our five senses through lots of exciting experiments and activities, discovering how we use our senses every day to help us to explore the world around us. In History, we've been learning about our pasts and the different ways can we celebrate special memories. We have also really enjoyed reading "Meesha makes friends" using the story to think about friendship and kindness, and to inspire some fantastic writing. We even made our own cardboard friends!

**Year 2** – Year 2 have settled back into school really well since coming back after the summer break. It has been a lovely start to the half term! They are enjoying reading Look Up! by Nathan Bryon in English and have learnt about Mae Jemison and have produced a fact file all about her. They have also written their own instructions explaining how to build a space rocket! In Maths, they are learning how to add within 20 using fact families. We will soon be doing this within 100! They interviewed three grown-ups this week about their time at school, for History. Each child asked a question that they had planned last week. The children are enjoying using Purple Mash in their Computing lessons.

**Year 3** – Year 3 have been learning about The Stone Age and how archaeologists use artefacts to find out how people lived. In Science, they have been learning about sources of light and conducting practical experiments. They have taken advantage of the mild weather and have done their PE topic of 'invasion games' outdoors. They have settled in well to their first weeks of being in KS2 and have adapted quickly to the new routines at lunch and different times for playtime. They have also begun learning French for the first time!

**Year 4** – In Year 4, children have enjoyed our English text: 'Counting on Katherine'. They have been keen to learn more about space, taken part in role play and discussions. In Science, the children have been engaged in learning about 'sound'. They have investigated patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it. They enjoyed using instruments to learn more about vibrations! The children have enjoyed our Roman dance PE lessons. They have remembered facts about the Roman Empire and used these movements in their dance to create a sequence of movements.

**Year 5** – Year 5 have settled well into the new academic year and have made a wonderful start, working hard in all areas of the curriculum. In English, our work has been inspired by successful black personalities and children have produced different genres of writing based on our learning about individuals such as Mae Jemison and Matthew Henson. In Science, children have been exploring properties of materials and have enjoyed a practical start to their topic. On a Wednesday afternoon we have been going swimming and the children are making excellent progress.

**Year 6** – Year 6 have been finding out a lot about the Windrush Generation in English, looking at drama and biographical writing from everyday people and famous people like Dame Floella Benjamin. We have studied migration in a broader sense, noting that about a third of doctors and a third of nurses in our NHS are non-UK nationals. In history, we have looked closely at primary sources such as census returns. We have had the opportunity this half term to work with a NUFC foundation gymnastics teacher in PE

### **School Council Elections**

This month we held elections for our new school councillors and the winning pupils from each class, from Year 1 to Year 6, were presented with their School Council badge by Mrs Roll, who is in charge of the school council. They are now wearing their badges with pride! The elected school councillors for 2025-2026 are: Aria, Lukas, Kieran, Alaia, Reggie, Izzy, Olivia, Leo, Isaac, Lily, Layla, and Teighlun. Their photographs are also on display between the KS2 girls and KS2 boys toilets so that everyone knows who they are.

### **School Buddies**

Our new team of School Buddies have been recruited and are undertaking their roles with a sensible and responsible attitude. School buddies play an important role in our school, having a range of responsibilities and being a role model for others in terms of behaviour, attitudes and manners. This year, they have been given a special lanyard to wear (with their name attached), a school buddy badge and they wear distinctive high-vis vests so that they can be easily identified around school when they are 'on duty'.

### **Peer Mediators**

We will be introducing Peer Mediators to Riverside this year! Pupils who are selected to be a peer mediator will receive training and will be given badges to wear so that other children know who they are. Peer mediators support children during playtimes to resolve disagreements by leading a conversation to help peers find their own solutions. This will support the restorative approach the adults already use in school.

### **Pupil Noticeboard**

We now have a pupil noticeboard in the corridor opposite the Year 4 classroom! This is where there are photos of our new buddies and the buddy rota and this is where we will post information about school clubs (what day, what time and where) so that pupils can find out this information themselves. Any information that is relevant to our pupils (like events at The Parks or in the community) will also be posted there.

### **Staffing News**

Miss Bates, Year 3 teacher for September, 2025 remains absent from work due to sickness. The difficulties we have had with Supply Cover has already been shared via the app and we are working hard to secure a teacher who will teach long term during this time.

Mrs O'Malley, Year 5 teacher for September, 2025 is currently absent from work due to sickness and the class are currently being taught by Mr Newsome.

### **Tesco Donation Presentation**

I was delighted to be invited to Tesco Extra, at Whitley Lodge, with 8 pupils from Riverside, on Tuesday afternoon this week to be presented with a 'cheque' for £5000 for our school!! Tesco supermarkets run a 'blue token' scheme and our school was chosen from three North East schools by a member of the public to receive the £5000. We met this 'member of the public' on Thursday who just happened to be in the store doing their shopping! They told me they don't know Riverside at all, but had looked on our website, liked what we provided for the children and families and wanted the money to go to us! The children who came along received a 'Goody Bag' of sweets and had photos taken for the store's social media. A photo of the cheque and the children (taken when we arrived back at school) was posted on our app.

### **School Office**

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

### **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. She is also out on the yard at home time.
- Mrs Hall, SENDCo, is out on the playground on a Monday and Thursday at the end of the day (and often in the mornings, too)

### **School Meals Ordering System – Hutchison's Appetite**

Can we please remind parents to order their child's school meals in advance. If they haven't placed their order beforehand, there is a chance their choice may not be available when they go for their lunch (and, of course, we don't want any child to be upset that there's nothing left to eat that they like).

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM / CLOTHING RAIL**

Our school clothing rail in the Main Entrance has been replenished for the start of the new term. Parents can access additional school uniform items (polo shirts, trousers, skirts) at no cost. All uniform and other clothing items on this rail have been freshly laundered for September. If you have any outgrown school sweatshirts or other items in good condition you would be happy to donate, please bring them in. Any contributions will be gratefully received – thank you. We also add new/unused school clothing items regularly. If you are experiencing difficulty in providing your child with school clothing or footwear, please contact the School Office where we will be able to help.

### **Forward Dates from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October (full details available on school website\*)**

1st – 31st October	Black History Month
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	'Brew it Fair' Afternoon Tea (with parents) – 3.00pm
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival Assembly
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	School Photographer – Individual Photographs + families
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	World Mental Health Day
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 5 & Year 6 'Parents into Classrooms' 2.45pm (Certificates presented at 3.00pm – Year 5 & 3.10pm – Year 6)
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 3 & Year 4 'Parents into Classrooms' 2.45pm (Certificates presented at 3.00pm – Year 3 & 3.10pm – Year 4)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Nursery Stay and Play (11.30am)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 1 & Year 2 'Parents into Classrooms' 2.45pm (Certificates presented at 3.00pm – Year 1 & 3.10pm – Year 2)
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception 'Stay and Play' 2.45pm (Certificates presented at 3.00pm)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Show Racism the Red Card – 'Wear Red Day'
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Rec – Year 6 Parental Consultations (3.30pm – 4.30pm)
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Rec – Year 6 Parental Consultations (3.30pm – 4.30pm)

Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Nursery Parental Consultations (2.00pm – 3.00pm)
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Nursery Halloween Disco (11.00am)
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Halloween Disco – 1.30pm – 2.15pm (Rec & KS1) 2.15pm – 3.00pm (KS2)
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	School closes at 3.20pm for half-term
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	October's Newsletter published