



OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to October's newsletter. We have now completed an eight week half term and the children have done so much learning! Pupils and staff are now ready for their well-earned break and we finish off this half term with our traditional Halloween themed day where children have come to school dressed up in ghoulish costumes and our scary and ghostly Halloween parties are taking place this afternoon!

Classroom News

Nursery - Nursery are having great fun in the outdoor area making potions, collecting leaves and adding water and mud. We have then extended this inside by making a Halloween corner. We had a fantastic Stay and Play last week with a great adult participation carrying out lots of autumn activities.

Reception - Reception have really enjoyed learning about and celebrating Hallowe'en! They have loved playing in the Hallowe'en role play area in our classroom and making potions using bicarbonate of soda and vinegar. They have learned how to carve pumpkins and enjoyed making autumn soup with the insides of pumpkins and a variety of items they found on their autumn walk on the yard!

Year 1 - October has been a busy month in Year 1! For Black History Month, the children learned about the artist Alma Thomas and created their own beautiful artwork inspired by her colourful, patterned style. They also took part in Show Racism the Red Card activities, learning about kindness, respect, and fairness. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of addition and subtraction, working confidently with numbers up to 10. The children have also loved role-playing in our Autumn Café, writing their own orders and recipes to practice their reading and writing skills

Year 2 - Year 2 have had a brilliant half term! They have continued to show an understanding of Mae Jemison in English. They wrote a poem describing what they could hear, smell, touch and see if they went to space. They have also completed their final piece of writing in English, where they wrote their own diary entry in Space. This week, they are going to continue their learning about her and participate in activities for Black History month. They have worked extremely hard on the Computers, completing their own posters on their own likes and interests. In Maths, they have shown an understanding of the topic of money where they have been able to recognise pence and pounds as well as making the same amount and comparing amounts. They created their own pieces of art using natural materials, in Art.

Year 3 - Year 3 have had a busy month! In maths, the children have been learning column addition and subtraction using exchange and, in English lessons, we have finished the 'Coming to England' unit of work where they demonstrated they could write letters using adjectives to describe the emotions of Floella and her trip from Trinidad to England. In PE, our unit of work was invasion games, including Hockey and Football. Everyone demonstrated key skills, such as passing, attacking and defending within a team game and all made great progress, In our Science topic, 'Light and Dark', the children have learned about UV light and how it can be dangerous. They now know how shadows are formed and which direction the sun is facing for the formation of shadows. The children learned about online safety in PSHE and how we should be careful with who we are talking to online and our online community. Year 3 also participated in the Skipping Ninja fun morning, with all children showing great skipping skills and one pupil was named the 'Ninja Champion'.

Year 4 - In Year 4, the children have completed our English unit based on *Counting on Katherine* and created amazing fact files about Katherine Johnson and her incredible life achievements. In Art, the children have explored storytelling through drawing, studying different artists and their work before creating their own stories through a series of imaginative drawings. The children also had great fun taking part in our hockey tournament at The Parks!

Year 5 - Year 5 have enjoyed the rest of the first half term back at school and have showed enthusiasm and interest in all that we have done. Children are making good progress in swimming and really look forward to this part of the week. In History, we have continued our work on the Vikings and children have shown

particular interest in this and the impact that the Viking settlement had on Britain. Children have written letters as Vikings and made Viking saga story maps.

Year 6 – The children marked Black History Month by studying black individuals who had made a significant or pioneering contribution in their particular field. This included scientists, campaigners and sportspeople. We made PowerPoint presentations on our chosen person. We had the Newcastle Eagles Hoops for Health people come in to work with our class and Year 5. They did healthy eating workshops with the children and some basketball games. They will come back to our classes to do coaching sessions later in the year followed by a tournament!

Black History Month

Children in Year 2-6 welcomed Loti Nambombe into school yesterday where he delivered an assembly on anti-racism and diversity as part of our Black History Month activities. He spoke about his own experiences of racism as well as the importance of feeling proud of who you are. In history lessons, the children have also been learning about the contributions made by Black people – be they leaders, activists, or pioneers – who have shaped history as part of this year's theme; 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride'

'Brew it Fair' Afternoon Tea

We were delighted to welcome so many parents to our Fairtrade Fortnight 'Brew it Fair' afternoon tea this month. Thank you all so much for bringing your own cup! This helped not only with supplies, but also reduced the washing up afterwards! The Fairtrade chocolate brownies were very popular with the grown-ups! We hope you enjoyed spending some time in the classrooms with your children, taking part in some arts and crafts related to Fairtrade.

Parents into Classroom Events

It was great to see so many parents attend our 'Parents into Classroom' events last week – an opportunity to find out about your child's learning, looking through their books and their work and talking with them about the knowledge and skills they have acquired already this term!

Congratulations to those children who received a 'Certificate of Achievement' from their class teacher for this term. They were all well-deserved! Remember that if your child didn't get a certificate this time, they will either get one in our spring term event or the summer term event. We always ensure EVERY child receives a certificate from their class teacher in each school year.

Show Racism the Red Card – 'Wear Red Day'

Last Friday, Riverside showed its support for this cause by children and staff coming to school wearing red! Show Racism the Red Card is the UK's leading educational anti-racism charity and our children took part in activities which promoted anti-racism. In the morning, a number of football matches took place between different classes. Thank you to the School Council for suggesting this idea and to Mr Fadden for organising it! The children looked amazing and they put a great amount of effort into wearing any item of red! Photographs were posted on the app – if you haven't yet seen these, please do take a look.

Parental Consultations

These were held on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Thank you to those parents who booked an appointment to chat with their child's class teacher to find out how they had settled into the new school year. We hope you found the appointments useful. Thank you for also booking your appointment through the school app. This is a much more efficient way for both parents and the school to manage bookings.

Staffing News

Miss Bates, Year 3 teacher for September, 2025 remains absent from work due to sickness. The class have been taught by Mr Perrie this month and after half term they will have a new teacher – Mr Shaw.

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

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

We will be on our new 'winter menu' when we return after half term. There are some new meal choices and a new range of warm puddings. The daily 'sandwich' option is now a filled bread roll (cheese, tuna or ham) and we will no longer have 'wraps' or 'sliced bread' sandwiches. As well as a new range of puddings, there will also be a new yoghurt station, where pupils can choose their own yoghurt and toppings. As this will be a brand new menu with many new foods and lots of changes, can we please remind parents to order their child's school meals before 3rd November as we don't want any child to be upset or go hungry because there's nothing available to eat that they like.

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.

School Uniform / Clothing Rails

Our school clothing rail in the Main Entrance was replenished at 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 were 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.

Halloween Fun!

We end this half term in our traditional spooky fashion! Children came to school this morning dressed in amazing fancy dress costumes for Halloween. Staff also dressed up and classrooms were decorated. There were many ghosts and ghouls to scare us! This afternoon, the children will enjoy their Halloween parties! There will be games and prizes for all the children in the dark and spooky hall which will have cobwebs and skeletons and all things scary as well as brand new disco ball lights!!! They will have a party tea in their classrooms, too. Each child will also be given a small party gift cup to take home containing lots of goodies. I'm sure they will tell you all about it when you collect them at home time, especially if they win a prize!!

Forward Dates from Monday 3rd November – Friday 19th December

Monday 3rd November	School re-opens for pupils
Monday 10th November	Curriculum Information uploaded to Class Page on website
Monday 10th November	Odd Socks Day
10th - 14th November	Anti-Bullying Week – (2025 Theme: “Power for Good”)
Friday 14th November	Children in Need (2025 Theme: ‘The Great SPOTacular’)
Friday 28th November	November’s Newsletter published
Thursday 4th December	KS2 Panto Trip – ‘Aladdin’, Theatre Royal, Newcastle
Monday 8th December	Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Party– 1.30pm
Tuesday 9th December	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Party – 1.30pm
Wednesday 10th December	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Party – 1.30pm
Thursday 11th December	Nursery Christmas Party - 11.00am – 12.00pm
Thursday 11th December	Reception Christmas Party – 1.30pm
Thursday 18th December	Christmas Show - Morning Performance (Doors open 9.15am. Show begins 9.30am)
Thursday 18th December	Christmas Show - Afternoon Performance (Doors open 2.00pm. Show begins 2.15pm)
Friday 19th December	December’s Newsletter published
Friday 19th December	School closes at 3.20pm for Christmas Holidays

School closes today for the half term holidays and reopens on Monday 3rd November, 2025.
On behalf of the school staff at Riverside, I wish you a happy and enjoyable half term break.