



NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to November's newsletter. We are now only 3 weeks away from the end of term and the start of the Christmas holidays. The nights are drawing in, the temperatures are dropping and we have experienced many rainy days this month – and one day of snow – resulting in lots of indoor playtimes! However, next Monday is 1st December and is our official launch of 'all things festive' at Riverside!

Classroom News

Nursery – Nursery have had such a busy time since coming back after half term. We took part in 'Odd Socks Day', Remembrance Day, and Children in Need. We welcomed Irene Frith from St Columba's UR Church in North Shields who told us about the story of Noah and his Ark. We also did the Nursery Rhyme Challenge, learning lots of different nursery rhymes and actions.

Reception – Reception have loved the change in seasons over the last few weeks! We explored the ice in the tuff tray outside and used our senses to describe the ice. We tried various ways to melt the ice quickly. We even used the ice in our coffee shop, too! We also loved playing in the snow and making snowmen and throwing snow balls at each other! The highlight was warming up in the classroom with hot chocolate!

Year 1 – November has been a fantastic month in Year 1! In Geography, we have been learning all about our local area and creating our own maps, using symbols and simple keys to show important places. We also took part in Red Nose Day, Odd Socks Day, and Anti-Bullying activities, helping us think about kindness, respect, and celebrating our differences. In English, we began our new topic on London and have enjoyed reading *Katie in London* to inspire our learning. We also had an exciting trip to NUcastle for a multiskills session, where the children practised a range of physical skills and had lots of fun.

Year 2 – Year 2 have been reading all about The Great Fire of London in English. They have produced lots of amazing pieces of writing so far. They have written facts about the fire and have included adverbs, co-ordination and adjectives. In Maths, they have been reciting their 2, 5 and 10 times table – they have wowed Miss Beattie with their knowledge of multiplication and division! They are able to locate and name the seven continents and explain life in the North and South Pole. They have all been Animators in Computing! They have made and produced their own animations using the computers and iPads. We are currently in the process of designing our own puppets in DT, which they will be making next week! Year 2 enjoyed their trip to NUcastle for a Multiskills event at the start of the month and they are going again on Monday 1st December for a Skipping Festival!

The Butterfly Room – The children in the Butterfly Room have enjoyed a trip to The Parks to work in the Sensory Room and Soft Play. It was lots of fun and we were great at climbing and exploring. We have also enjoyed learning about Diwali and Bonfire Night, exploring colour and light and creating lots of colourful crafts. We explored Remembrance Day, looking carefully at poppies. We have also been reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and have enjoyed role play, story sequencing, counting and making healthy fruit kebabs.

Year 3 – It's been a busy month in Year 3! The children have been learning all about volcanoes in Geography. They have learnt about tectonic plates and are able to name the different layers of the Earth. In Design Technology, the children have looked at the different mechanisms used in moving books and have begun to plan and design their own books using levers and pivot points. In Maths, they have used their times tables and division knowledge to investigate different ways to solve word and number problems. Year 3 have been reading *The Stone Age Boy* in English. They have looked at the different characters and written their own versions of the story. In our Science topic, *Animals Including Humans*, the children have investigated the nutritional requirements of different animals and how their skeletons are made up. The children have also improved their cricket and dance skills whilst working with different external coaches in PE.

Year 4 – In Year 4, the children have been excited to read our new book. We have been exploring the magical story 'Leon and the Place Between'. The children have shown fantastic imagination and creativity. Miss

Macdougall has been so impressed with the ideas and detail they are now adding to their writing. As part of Anti-Bullying Week, the children created posters highlighting how we can all be a Power for Good. We also supported Children in Need, taking part in activities to help raise money for this important cause. In Science, the children have really enjoyed our topic on electricity. They have been building circuits, experimenting with components and even creating and testing their own switches to understand how they work.

Year 5 - Year 5 have had a busy November and continued their strong work ethic into autumn two! In maths, we have been working on practising both mental and written strategies to calculate multiplication and division questions and in English, the children have been engrossed with learning about the book, 'Beowulf'. We have been practising skills in readiness for them to write their own legend narrative! In Geography, we have been learning about the Alps and children have been interested in asking questions about how life is different there. A particular highlight this month has been our cricket sessions and children have worked incredibly hard and listened well to the cricket coach and have improved their skills!

Year 6 - This half term children have started the Lego computer topic and one lunchtime they interviewed several scientists over Zoom to get information to help with the project. We took a team of 20 boys and girls from Year 5 and 6 to The Parks for an indoor Sportshall Athletics event with several other schools. They did relays in the sports hall including obstacle courses and field events such as long jump and triple jump. All the children were sporting and performed well.

Riverside Community Market

We are incredibly excited to announce that our Riverside Market will reopen at our Christmas Extravaganza event on 12th December. The new improved shop will feature a wide range of store cupboard essentials, ideal for stocking up in preparation for Christmas, all sold at a fraction of the average retail price. Our aim is to support our Riverside community - it really is worth having a look to see what's on offer!

Christmas Extravaganza Event – advance notice

We are excited to be hosting a festive event for parents on the afternoon of Friday 12th December and we'd love to see you all there. Parents should come to the school main entrance at 2.30pm where you will be able to enjoy a FREE hot chocolate, try your luck on the tombola, shop at the Christmas market, view our gallery of children's Christmas artwork and listen to the school choir sing some traditional songs and carols. You'll be able to see (and smell) our lovely decorated grand school Christmas tree, too! At 2.45pm, we will open the entrance door to the school and there you will be able to visit your child in their classroom and take part in some Christmas crafts, which you can take home at the end of the afternoon. It's guaranteed to be a lovely afternoon for everyone in our school community so please do come along!

Children in Need

Thank you for your kind donations to the Children in Need charity fundraising. We raised just over £100 (£100.30 to be exact!). We hope you enjoyed looking at the various photo posts on our school app.

Staffing News

Miss Bates, Year 3 teacher, has now returned to school from her period of sickness absence on a Phased Return to work. For the last two weeks and up until the end of term, Miss Bates will increase the number of hours and days she teaches, and when she isn't in school, Mr Shaw will continue to teach Year 3.

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.

Stars in Our Schools

Stars in Our Schools is an annual celebration of school support staff which took place today. The day is a celebration of the huge contribution support staff make to our schools, pupils and wider communities. Support Staff includes: Teaching Assistants, Pastoral staff, Office staff, Cleaning and Caretaking staff, Kitchen staff (school meals) and lunchtime staff (dinner ladies). It takes a whole team to make a school a safe and happy place for all children and school support staff help children learn, keep them safe and happy and make

sure schools run smoothly. We made these members of staff feel extra special today with treats and gifts and 'Thank You' cards for each one of them made by the children.

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 – Appetite

We are now on our new 'winter menu' and there are some delicious new food options such as gammon and cottage pie. There are also some warm and comforting pudding choices including warm sponge and custard (as well as chocolate sponge and chocolate custard!).

Would parents please remember to order their child's meal in advance so that they are provided with a meal they will enjoy eating each day.

Christmas Dinner Day (and Christmas Jumper Day)

This year, our Christmas dinner day will be Wednesday 17th December. We will offer a traditional meal of roast turkey, pigs in blankets, served with a range of vegetables and delicious gravy. **PLEASE NOTE: There will be no sandwich option on this day.** If your child does not like a roast turkey dinner, you will be required to provide them with a packed lunch.

Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper on this day. If your child does not wish to wear a Christmas jumper, they can come to school in 'non-uniform'.

Christmas Jumpers DAYS....

Our children are invited to wear their Christmas jumper on Christmas Dinner day (17th December) and we would also like them to wear a Christmas jumper for the Christmas concert on Thursday 18th December. **Christmas jumper is optional on Friday 19th December** (last day of term) but pupils can opt for 'non-uniform' on 19th December, if they would prefer.

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.

Forward Dates from Monday 1st December – Friday 19th December

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
Friday 12th December	Christmas Extravaganza – 2.30pm (main entrance)
Wednesday 17th December	School Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day*
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

*please note: on Christmas Dinner Day, there will be no jacket potato or sandwich options