



# MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to May's newsletter. You will be aware that we didn't publish a newsletter in April because we only returned to school after the Easter holidays in the last week of April! These last 5 weeks have flown by, and we have been rather preoccupied with supporting our Year 6 pupils as they prepared for their SATs (which took place last week). We have had a lot of school trips this half term, too, and with the nicer spring weather, we have been able to enjoy the outdoors much more.

## **Classroom News**

**Nursery** - Nursery have enjoyed choosing their own books this half term connected to our topics of 'Transport' and 'Under the Sea'. We have made trains and buses using different resources and materials in our role play. We made boats and tested them out on the water to see if they would float! We also want to say a big thank you to parents/carers who came and watched our phonic session so they can support their children at home.

**Reception** - Reception have loved learning about plants this half term. We know what plants need in order to survive. We did an experiment where we deprived plants of water, light and soil and observed the changes. We even put orange juice in our plant instead of water! We have also absolutely loved learning about minibeasts and identifying them in our outside area. We have written some fantastic sentences about minibeasts and we have identified their features.

**Year 1** - This half term has been full of exciting learning in Year 1! We have been reading 'Somebody Swallowed Stanley' in English and the children have learned all about plastic pollution and why it is important to recycle. They have enjoyed writing fact files about different sea creatures and sharing lots of interesting facts. In Maths, we have been learning to read clocks and tell the time to the hour and half past. The children are now very confident at this and enjoy reading the clock in the classroom to tell each other the time. Year 1 have also loved learning about sculptures in Art and creating their own 3D pieces using different materials and techniques. The highlight of the half term was definitely our trip to the farm, and we would like to say another huge thank you to all the parents who volunteered to help. The children absolutely loved seeing the baby lambs and learning about the different types of grains that are grown and turned into the food we eat.

**Year 2** - Year 2 have had a very busy start to the Summer term! At the end of April, they visited East House Farm with the Year 1 children and met 9 lovely lambs! They also participated in an obstacle course and looked and felt different types of grains; they were able to spend the whole day outside! In the classroom, the children have engaged in lots of learning, including inspecting and growing their own sunflowers in Science. They all came up with their own experiment and took away a variable that the plant really needed. In Maths, they have explored the unit of work: Measure and have been able to identify different units of measure including millilitres, litres and degrees Celsius. They have been learning about Monarchs past and present in History. They have been creative in Art as they have made their own wooden dolls out of lollipop sticks and string. What a fantastic half term!

**The Butterflies** - The Butterflies have thoroughly enjoyed spending time in The Hut this half term. We were thrilled when we arrived back at school after the Easter Holidays to find out that we have moved

into our new classroom called 'Butterflies @ The Hut'. We have enjoyed exploring the climbing wall, reading corner with cosy bed and blanket, sensory trays, cars and home corner kitchen. We have enjoyed learning in The Quiet Area on a one to one basis as well as learning how to cook and get messy with a range of different media and materials. We have also spent lots of time in the new sensory room, 'The Den', and have been singing, relaxing and spending time with our friends. Our favourite topics this month have been Dinosaurs, Goldilocks and the Three Little Pigs with lots of story telling through props and resources.

**Year 3** - Year 3 are enjoying their work on Lego League, building models relating to archaeological digs and considering what might be found there and what it could tell us about the past. Our trip to the Great North Museum was enjoyed by all. The children were impeccably behaved and took part in lots of different activities. We looked at artefacts from Ancient Egypt, including a rather scary mummified body and learned all about the afterlife. We even had a go at deciphering hieroglyphics. We completed our work with Country Trust by spending some time gardening and searching for worms and learning all about why they are so useful. Some of our children had a lovely day trip to Eachwick Dairy where they met some very young cows, saw the milking process and learned about how crops are grown, rotated and supplied to our supermarkets. We are looking forward to what comes next!

**Year 4** - This half term in Year 4, we have really enjoyed learning about plastic pollution through our class text *Alba the Hundred-Year-Old Fish*. The children explored what causes plastic pollution and discussed ways we can help protect our planet. They created some fantastic information boards to show their learning and enjoyed sharing their ideas with one another. In Science, the children have loved learning about states of matter and how materials can change state. We carried out lots of fun investigations, including making crispy cakes to observe chocolate melting and testing materials such as butter and ice. The children enjoyed making predictions and discussing what they noticed during the investigations. We welcomed visitors into our classroom to share with us the importance of eating a balanced diet. The children worked together in groups to create a healthy lunch. It was lovely to see the children sharing ideas, working as a team and showing great enthusiasm throughout the session. We recently completed The Big School Workout: Live with Joe Wicks for Mental Health Week. The children enjoyed completing some exercise moves and discussing what helps them, mentally. We have had a lovely Summer 1 and look forward to all of the exciting learning and activities still to come in the final half term of Year 4!

**Year 5** - This half term, Year Five have continued with their positive attitude towards all areas of the curriculum. We started the half term with a trip to the Rising Sun Country Park where pupils had the opportunity to take part in orienteering activities linked to our Outdoor Adventure Activities topic in PE. Back in school, pupils have shown a particular interest in our History topic, learning about life in Ancient Greece including how democracy worked in its origins. In Art, pupils have been 'engrossed' in looking at the War Horse production and developing their own Set Designs. Pupils have shown an incredible enthusiasm learning about coral reefs in relation to writing their own information texts.

**Year 6** - Year 6 have worked so hard in the build up to their SATs. Since the start of this half term they have focused on SATs preparation and revision to which they responded very well. We started attending swimming lessons on Wednesdays. They have been learning basketball skills including competitive games in PE. They learned how to edit videos on Imovie on the ipads. They celebrated finishing SATs Week in style, having a three-course lunch at Davanti's ! They have really made us proud of all of their efforts!

### **Staffing News**

I am delighted to share with you that Miss Badminton welcomed a beautiful baby boy on Saturday 9th May! Welcome to the world, baby Badminton! Both mother and baby are doing well. Currently, Mrs Hutchinson is covering Miss Badminton's maternity leave.

### **Easter Egg Decorating Competition - Winners**

We were inundated with entries to our annual Easter Egg decorating competition. As always, the level of imagination, thought and detail in each one was outstanding. The winners, who each received a large chocolate easter egg, are listed below:

EYFS	Winner: Amara (N)	Runner Up: Rowan (R)
KS1	Winner: William (1)	Runner Up: Scarlett (2)
LKS2	Winner: Izzy (3)	Runner Up: Jack (4)
UKS2	Winner: Layla (6)	Runner Up: Esme (5)

Remember, photographs of the winners were posted on the app on the last day of term.

### **Easter Eggstravaganza**

Thanks to all the parents and carers who attended our Easter Eggstravaganza at the end of last term. We listened to your feedback from the Christmas event and had it in the hall this time! We were able to put on more stalls and a wider choice of refreshments. Thanks to your generosity, we raised the grand total of £313.00 for our School Fund.

Your contributions to the school fund ensured the school was able to give every child an Easter Egg to take home. And, thanks to the kindness of Rev Lee and the community of St John's Church, all children were given a second egg to take home, too!!

### **Homework Awards - Spring 2**

Congratulations to our Homework winners for Spring 2. These were:

Reception - Emily; Year 1 - Esmay; Year 2 - Madison; Year 3 - Kaycee; Year 4 - Joseph; Year 5 - Esme; Year 6 - Emily

Winners for the Summer 1 award will be presented with a certificate during assembly on the morning of Monday 1st June.

### **'Ready, Set, Breakfast Club'**

This has already been heavily publicised and shared on our parent app since the launch but we have been overwhelmed with how many children are now attending our 'new and improved' Ready, Set, Breakfast Club which opened on 20th April, after the Easter Holidays. If your child does not currently attend, please consider the advantages of this provision. Not only do we put on a wide variety of foods, and children can eat as much as they like, it is also more convenient for parents who can drop their children off at the earlier time of 8.10am each day. Friday is designated 'Bacon Butty' and Sausage Sarnie' day, however throughout the week we also offer waffles, pancakes, croissants, pain au chocolat, smoothies, fresh fruit, a wide variety of cereal, toast with different toppings, plain and flavoured yoghurt as well as scrambled eggs, baked beans and spaghetti hoops! There really is so much on offer and we have plenty of spaces. We'd like EVERY child to come to our Breakfast Club!

### **Butterflies @ The Hut**

We were delighted to open our new provision for The Butterflies after Easter. The previous Butterfly Room is now called The Lodge and the Butterflies have moved into The Hut - we call it 'Butterflies @ The Hut'. Not only is the space bigger, we are now able to provide a climbing wall, a quiet zone and a home corner, amongst other things. We have also installed a Sensory Room at the back which we call The Den. It has soft mats, a full wall mirror, light up pebbles and fibre optic lights. We would like to thank the parents of our Butterflies for their positive feedback about the new and upgraded provision - above all, the children are happy in their new space.

### **School Uniform**

We would like to remind parents of our school uniform expectations:

- Plain white polo shirt or white shirt with a collar.
- Official purple school jumper or cardigan with school logo (from Custom Planet)
- Plain grey/black trousers or skirt.
- Black 'school' shoes or plain black trainers. Coloured trainers or trainers with logos and different coloured soles are NOT permitted.
- Black plimsolls for inside school and for indoor PE lessons

Please note: jogging bottoms or tracksuit bottoms should only be worn on the days your child has PE. They are not to be worn everyday instead of trousers. If your child has sensory issues which prevent them from wearing our standard school uniform, please speak to Mrs Hall, SENCo, where the matter can be discussed and a mutual agreement reached.

Here is the link to our uniform supplier, Custom Planet: <https://www.riverside.schoolii.co.uk/shop>

Our school prospectus also states what is and what is not allowed: *We discourage our children from wearing jewellery for safety reasons. However, one pair of stud earrings is allowed, plus a watch. Children must not come to school with dyed hair, nail varnish or temporary skin tattoos. Parents are asked to co-operate fully with the school dress code.*

Remember, we also have a number of clothing rails in the main entrance with a range of school uniform items, as well as outdoor coats and footwear. Please feel free to browse and help yourself to whatever you need.

### **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 a message. All messages are picked up at 8.00am. The school office staff are Ms Taylor, School Business Manager, and Miss Clay, Administration Assistant. Miss Cameron is also on the front desk in the Main Reception from 8.50am - 9.15am, every day.

### **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.

### **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 the school office.

### **School Meal Orders**

Can we please remind parents to order their child's school meals in advance. This ensures that your child will be served with food that they like to eat. It is very distressing for a child when they have not ordered a meal - and are given the main meal option - and they do not like it. We do not want any child to go without food at lunchtime so it is absolutely essential that their daily meal is ordered for them by the parent/carer. The new Summer Menu (available after Easter) has new meal options like chilli con carne as well as the usual 'favourites' like margherita pizza! Please find some time in the half term holidays to sit with your child and order their meals from 1st June right up to 16th July!!

### **Forward dates for Summer 2 (1st June - 17th July)**

Monday 1st June	School re-opens at 8.50am
1st - 12th June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
8th - 12th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
15th - 19th June	International Learning Week
Tuesday 16th June	School Photographer - class photographs and Year 6 Leavers
Wednesday 24th June	International Showcase (whole school) outdoor event at 2.00pm
Friday 26th June	June's Newsletter published
Monday 29th June	Year 5 'Parents into Classrooms' - 2.50pm
Tuesday 30th June	Year 1 'Parents into Classrooms' - 2.50pm
Wednesday 1st July	Year 2 'Parents into Classrooms' - 2.50pm
Thursday 2nd July	Year 3 'Parents into Classrooms' - 2.50pm
Monday 6th July	Reception 'Stay and Play' - 2.50pm
Monday 6th July	Annual Reports to Parents
Tuesday 7th July	KS2 (Year 6) SATs Results published
Tuesday 7th July	Transition Morning
Tuesday 7th July	Year 4 'Parents into Classrooms' - 2.50pm

Wednesday 8th July	KS2 Summer Beach Trip – Tynemouth Longsands
Thursday 9th July	Sports Day – 2.00pm
Friday 10th July	Reception & KS1 Summer Beach Trip – Cullercoats Bay
Wednesday 15th July	Nursery Graduation followed by Garden Party (11.00am)
Wednesday 15th July	Year 6 Leavers’ Assembly for parents (2.00pm – 3.00pm)
Thursday 16th July	Summer Fair – 1.30pm
Thursday 16th July	July’s Newsletter published
Thursday 16th July	School Closes for Summer Break
Friday 17th July	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING</b>

School closes today at 3.20pm. School is closed tomorrow, Friday 22nd May, for Staff Training. We re-open on Monday 1st June at 8.50am (8.10am for Breakfast Club).

On behalf of everyone here at Riverside, I wish you a very happy half term holiday. Let’s hope the sun shines and the weather is warmer for us all!