



JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to July's Newsletter and the last newsletter of this academic year. I was delighted to present 'scrolls' at the Nursery Graduation and certificates at the Year 6 Leaver's Assembly yesterday. Our Nursery graduates are returning to us in September when they join 'big school' for the first time whilst our Year 6 pupils 'move on' to start their secondary education journey. Our Year 6 Leavers have made so much progress academically, socially and personally and it has been a privilege to be part of the learning journey of each and every one of them, including those who started with us at the age of 3 as well as those who joined us part way through their primary education! As the staff at Riverside come to the end of another school year, we take the opportunity, as always, to reflect on our achievements, evaluate what we have delivered and make plans for even greater improvements and successes next year!

Staffing Update

- We would like to announce that Miss Bates, Year 3 teacher, has left the school for personal reasons. I am sure you will join me in wishing her well for the future.
- We would like to say farewell and thank you to Miss Wilson for teaching the Year 3 class for the last 6 weeks.
- Year 2 will be taught by Miss Macdougall from September.
- We welcomed Miss Cooper back to Riverside yesterday following her maternity leave. Miss Cooper will be working part time in September and will be the teacher of The Butterflies alongside Mrs Hall.
- In September, Mrs Burston will be working part time - two days a week, Thursday and Friday. Ms Hill will also be working part time - three days a week, Monday to Wednesday.
- We welcome Miss Ainscow to Riverside in September. She will be supporting the Butterflies in the Butterfly Room as a SEND Teaching Assistant alongside Miss Barry and the Butterfly teachers.
- We will therefore be saying farewell and thank you to Miss Scott, SEND Teaching Assistant in The Butterfly Room, who is leaving to resume her university studies in September.
- We will also be saying welcome to Miss Yas who will be covering the remainder of Miss Badminton's Maternity Leave following Mrs Hutchinson's departure in July.
- Finally, we would like to welcome Miss Hughes who has been appointed as a Teaching Assistant and who will support children in KS2, but who will also support EHCP children across the school.

SCHOOL NEWS UPDATE

- Annual Reports to Parents were sent home on Monday of last week. Our reports are a simple one-page format with effort and achievement grades for all subjects in addition to a written comment from the class teacher. These new style reports were introduced last year and parent feedback was very positive.
- KS2 SATs results were given to the Year 6 children only this morning. The delay of 9 days was as a result of failings by Pearsons who were contracted by the Department of Education to coordinate all KS2 SATs administration this year but failed to get results to schools on the agreed date of 7th July. However, we must give a very 'well done' to our Year 6 children who collectively achieved 60% Combined (Reading, Writing and Mathematics) slightly below the National Average of 63%.

- Year 6 pupils have taken part in many transition activities with their high schools. They have enjoyed a range of experiences and meeting members of staff and making new friends.
- We held a lovely Nursery Graduation yesterday morning followed by a celebration Garden Party. All our young superstars looked wonderful in their purple 'cap and gown' as they received their graduation 'scroll' and had their photos taken. We hope parents enjoyed seeing photographs of their learning, hearing about what they have enjoyed in nursery and finding out what their child would like to be when they grow up!
- The Year 6 Leaver's Assembly took place yesterday afternoon. The children put on an uplifting and emotional performance, including a beautiful rendition of 'Hey Jude'. They shared their 'Riverside Memories' with their parents and loved ones and then were presented with their 'Mr Fadden's Special Award' certificates. On behalf of all the staff at Riverside, we wish them lots of luck in high school and beyond and we hope they achieve the hopes and aspirations they shared at the assembly.
- Children attended their traditional beach trips last week with the older children having a day of beach fun at Tynemouth Longsands and the younger children spending a day at Cullercoats beach. We were very lucky with glorious sunny weather but thankfully not too hot! However, due to the concerns raised about sun exposure at the annual beach trip over recent years, we have decided that we will no longer have an end of year beach trip at Riverside and will do something different instead, next year.
- Our annual Sports Day took place on Monday afternoon and was a great success. There was a nice breeze to keep everyone cool! It was lovely to see such a huge turn out of parents and other family members to support the children as they completed a circuit practising skills such as goal scoring, basketball in the hoop, skipping and balancing activities. We finished off the class activities with traditional boys and girls running races and of course, the annual dads and mams races. Thank you for supporting our children and making the afternoon so much fun for everyone!
- We really enjoyed welcoming our Nursery 'graduates' to have a school meal with their parent/carer last week so that both children and their grown-ups could see and experience a school lunch prior to them starting full time school in September. Christine, the cook, and her team served a meal of roast gammon, roast potatoes, yorkshire pudding, vegetables and gravy followed by ice-cream. We were pleased that so many of the grown-ups chose to have a meal alongside their child too.
- Year 5 enjoyed a unique experience last week with a visit to Durham University Business School (DUBS). Along with pupils from a primary school in Newcastle, our pupils were given a guided tour of the Waterside building (home of DUBS) as well as some interactive activities and the opportunity to listen to a current DUBS student who was the first in their family to go to university to learn about their journey to higher education.
- On Tuesday, we welcomed Lynn from North Tyneside Council to deliver an age-appropriate Road Safety workshop to all classes across the school. This safety awareness session complements our recent workshops on water safety delivered by Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade. These two visitor workshops support the PSHE Curriculum taught in school.

Attendance and Punctuality Awards

A huge congratulations to the winners of our FULL YEAR 100% Attendance Awards – Sebastian, Carson and James – who received a certificate, a purple enamel badge and an £30 Amazon Voucher. And another congratulations to 14 pupils who had 100% attendance and perfect punctuality for the Summer Term. They received a certificate, a star badge and a £5 Amazon Voucher.

Attendance Procedures for the new Academic Year

Parents will have received an information leaflet in their pupils annual report which outlines the changes we will be making to school attendance as from September, 2026. This will be in line with the updated statutory guidance from the Department for Education: 'Working together to improve school attendance' published in July, 2026. We will strive to improve overall attendance so that it is at least in line with national percentages. The ways in which we will encourage good attendance and how we will approach poor attendance with families is all outlined in the leaflet so please do read it.

Attendance – Class of the Week Leaderboard Award

Congratulations to Year 2 who enjoyed a fun morning trip to Cullercoats yesterday in recognition of having the best attendance for the summer term. They achieved 92.1% attendance. The fun aspect of the morning followed their Geography Field trip to Cullercoats. The 'treat' part was being able to come to school in non-uniform, have a play on the beach when the geography part ended and being treated to a delicious cool and tasty ice-cream from the ice-cream parlour afterwards!

Sunshine Award

This morning, we presented certificates and sunshine pin badges to all of those children who have never had their name 'on the cloud' this term, meaning they have meticulously followed the Riverside Rules since Monday 20th April when we returned after the Easter holidays.

School Uniform Expectations and PE Kit - REMINDER FOR SEPTEMBER

Our school dress code for pupils states what we expect pupils to wear to school. This includes black school shoes or plain black trainers, sandshoes for indoors and no jewellery except one pair of earrings and a watch. We do not allow children to come to school with dyed hair (temporary or permanent dye), 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. **Please consult the School Uniform Policy on the website for more details.**

Children are required to come to school on their PE days wearing their PE kit. Your child's class teacher will notify you of your pupil's PE days. If this is Wednesday 2nd September, your child's class teacher will send a message on the School App (Reach More Parents) on Tuesday 1st September.

Summer Fair

We end the school year in the traditional way with our annual Summer Fair this afternoon. We have some new stalls and a wider range of things to buy and do. We hope you have an enjoyable afternoon and fingers crossed for good weather! All proceeds from the Fair will go into our School Fund – the pot of extra money that enables us to purchase nice treats for our children! I will let you know how much we raised in my September Welcome letter. **Update: We raised £1390.45!!!**

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for their support and for their cooperation in working in partnership with the school to support their child's educational development and progress.

As the summer holidays begin, the staff of Riverside commence their well-earned summer break. On behalf of myself and all the staff, we would like to wish all our families a very happy holiday.

We look forward to welcoming all our pupils, and some new pupils too, when school re-opens for the new academic year at 8.50am (or if you attend Breakfast Club, 8.10am) on Wednesday 2nd September, 2026. School is closed for Staff Training on Tuesday 1st September.

A. Yilmaz

Mrs A Yilmaz
Headteacher