

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back Everyone!

Dear Parents,

As we begin the new academic year, I would like to offer a very warm welcome to our returning pupils and families and also a very special welcome to our new pupils and parents who are joining us this year. At Riverside, your children's well-being is our priority and we will support them in achieving the very best they can, both academically and socially. We pride ourselves on being a fully inclusive school; delivering the best appropriate provision possible to meet the needs of all individuals. We are recognised locally for our provision and testimonials support this.

As always, I was delighted to greet our pupils at the gate this morning – those who didn't attend Breakfast Club. However, I did pop into Breakfast Club this morning and was so happy to see all those smiling faces in amongst a sea of purple!! Everyone looked so smart in their school uniform! During the whole school assembly this morning, I talked to the children about reflecting on their achievements from last year and what their goals were for the new academic year. The key message was that we cannot change what happened in the past year but we can determine what the new school year will be, by making wise and sensible choices.

Staffing News

At the end of term, we said farewell to Miss Bates, Year 3 teacher, Mrs Hutchinson, who was Miss Badminton's maternity cover, Miss Scott, SEND Teaching Assistant in the Butterfly Room and Mrs Brannon, our lunchtime supervisor.

We welcomed back Miss Cooper from her maternity leave. Miss Cooper has returned part time and will work Wednesday to Friday.

Yesterday, we welcomed back Miss Clay, Administration Assistant in the School Office, following her long term sickness absence. She will work part time for a few weeks before resuming her full time position.

From September, Miss Hill will work Monday to Wednesday and Mrs Burston will work Thursday and Friday.

This term we welcome the following new members of staff to Riverside:

Miss Ainscow – SEND Teaching Assistant in The Butterfly Room

Miss Hughes – Teaching Assistant across KS2

Miss Stronach, who has been a cleaner at Riverside for many years, now joins the Breakfast Club team and the Lunchtime Supervisors Team.

Summer Works

During the six weeks holiday, the cleaning team carried out a very thorough deep clean of the whole school – it is now sparkling and neat! We have purchased new tables and chairs for the new Year 4/5 classroom (Mr Newsome) and the new Year 5/6 classroom (Mr Fadden).

The old Year 3 classroom is now a training room for school staff and is called The Willow Room

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 8.10am every morning and on the reception desk in the main entrance from 8.50am – 9.30am, daily.
- Mrs Hall, SENDCo, is out on the playground on a Thursday at 3.00pm, if you have any concerns about your child's learning and progress.

School Office

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

Forward Dates

Forward Dates for the autumn term will be uploaded to the school website by the end of the week and they will also be added to the school calendar on the home page of the school website.

Please note, whilst we try to stick to the dates and times for events, occasionally it may be necessary to make a change. We will keep you updated of any changes via the school app (Reach More Parents) and on the website. We try to give as much notice as possible of changes but sometimes this is unavoidable.

Monthly Newsletters

Newsletters are published on the school website on the last Friday of the month and you will receive a notification on the app with a link to the newsletter. The newsletter contains valuable and relevant information for parents and carers about school and updates you need to know about so please do take five minutes to read it so that nothing is a 'surprise'!! We aim to make you aware of the important things that are happening in school which will affect you and your children and communicate this through our newsletter.

ReachMoreParents

We have a school app which we use to share news via a newsfeed, send messages, obtain permission slips for trips and post photos of children's learning. It is our best communication tool because it is instant and the alerts go straight to your phone. Please make sure you are registered so that you are kept fully up to date with news and events and important messages.

Attendance and Absence

Attendance at school is crucial to ensuring all children achieve to the best of their ability. In the Report Pack sent home with your child's Annual Report in July, we provided you with a leaflet which outlines the key important changes to school attendance this year at Riverside. We will be tracking school attendance much more closely and working with parents much sooner to support improved school attendance.

Term Time Holidays

As outlined in the Pupil Attendance leaflet, we do not authorise leave of absence during term time for the purpose of Family Holidays. Parents who take their children on holiday during term time are likely to receive a Penalty Notice from the Local Authority Attendance and Placement Service.

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.

School Day

A reminder that our school day **starts at 8.50am** and **finishes at 3.20pm**.

Breakfast Club operates from 8.10am until 8.40am. Remember: entrance to Breakfast Club is via the school playground and NOT the rear car park of the Riverside Centre.

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.

Health and Safety

I would like to remind parents that there are signs on the entrances to the school premises which prohibit smoking or the use of vapes on the school yard. Additional signs show that **we do not allow electric bikes or electric scooters in the yard**. Furthermore, dogs are not allowed in the yard – this includes puppies and small dogs which can be carried.

School Uniform Expectations and PE Kit

We would like to remind you of our school dress code for pupils which clearly states what we expect pupils to wear to school. This includes black school shoes or plain black trainers, plimsolls for indoors and no jewellery except one pair of earrings and a watch. We do not allow children to come to school 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. If your child has had/worn any of these over the six weeks summer holiday, they need to be removed for school.

Please note: children are required to come to school on their PE days wearing their PE kit.

Pupil Birthdays - Reminder

Pupils must not bring in birthday cakes or sweets to share with their classmates on their birthday. This is because it contravenes our school's Health Eating Policy and we are having an increasing number of pupils with allergies and food intolerances. As from September, schools are also required by law to comply with Benedict's law that mandates consistent, whole-school allergy safety measures across schools in England.

However, when it is your child's birthday on a school day, they receive 'Special Day Provision' on that day. They are given a birthday hat and badge to wear all day, their classmates sing Happy Birthday to them in the morning and there is the option of the child having all pupils sing Happy Birthday to them in the dinner hall at lunchtime!

Playground Toys / Other items from home - Reminder

We would also like to remind parents that pupils are not allowed to bring in items from home to play with at playtimes and lunchtimes. This includes footballs and skipping ropes. The Sports Councillors and Buddies will ensure there is adequate SCHOOL equipment and resources for children to play with. Pupils are not allowed to bring in soft toys or fidget toys either – we have a wide range of resources your child can access, if they need to.

Children should not bring in pencil cases from home. All equipment required for learning – pencils, pens, rulers, felt pens, scissors etc – will be provided by the school. We discourage the bringing in of rucksacks/backpacks/tote bags as they take up too much space in our cloakrooms. Children need only to bring in their purple reading folder (if they have one) for their Home Reading Book, the clear School Book Bag (for Read, Write, Inc home reading books), and a sturdy packed lunch box if they do not eat a school meal at lunchtime.

KS2 SWIMMING

On the days when pupils in Years 3-6 go swimming (which is a Wednesday) pupils need only to bring in a small kit bag or a carrier bag containing a swimming costume and a towel. Large and bulky bags for swimming kit are unnecessary and again, take up too much space in the cloakrooms.

School Meals Ordering System

Can we please remind parents to order their child's school meals in advance. We understand it may have been something you forgot to do in the holidays! However, children were reminded of this during assembly. If they haven't ordered their choice of meal beforehand, there is a chance their choice may not be available.