



SEPTEMBER 2026

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to September's newsletter - the first one of the new academic year. Children and staff have returned to a warm, welcoming, clean, tidy and calm school! It is a delight when I walk the corridors each day and visit classrooms to see children working purposefully and with high levels of concentration. Children who I pass in the corridor or who pop down to the office display positive behaviours and impeccable manners. The school is calm and quiet and the older children are really taking care of their newly refurbished classrooms. Our new training room for staff, the Willow Room, is being used frequently and the teachers are taking great care of their new working space too!! The start to the new academic year has got off to a really great start and there are some really exciting events happening this term, too.

Classroom News

Nursery – Nursery have settled in very well, getting used to our rules and routines. They are thoroughly enjoying our space topic, learning about patterns, shapes and colours through the story of, 'Aliens Love Underpants' and being inspired to create rockets after reading, 'Whatever next!' We can't wait to explore, create and learn so much more as the term continues.

Reception – Reception have settled really well into life at school, especially now they are full time! They have shown great maturity in the lunch hall and are tidying up well! Our first topic has been 'Marvellous Me'. We have created self portraits using paints and also healthy food. We have drawn pictures of our family and described them. Our story has been 'We're Going to Find the Monster!' and Reception have loved retelling the story using props and characters as well as designing our own monster!

Year 1 – September has been a lovely start to the new school year in Year 1! The children have settled in brilliantly and have enjoyed getting to know their new routines and exploring their new classroom. We have loved reading, "Meesha Makes Friends" and talking about our emotions when faced with new situations. We have also had lots of fun practising our throwing and catching skills in PE and creating spirals and patterns inspired by seashells in Art. We have already had a fantastic start to the year and are looking forward to all the exciting learning and experiences still to come!

Year 2 – Year 2 have had a thoroughly enjoyable start to the new year. The children have been working really hard and have settled into their daily routines brilliantly. In English, the children have enjoyed reading our story, 'Look Up!' and learning all about Mae Jemison and space. They have enjoyed finding out about Mae's life and her amazing journey to becoming an astronaut. The children have also been working hard in maths and have enjoyed using lots of practical resources to support their learning, particularly with counting and place value. The children have shown impressive positive attitudes to learning so far. They have made a fantastic start to Year 2, and we can't wait to see how they continue to learn, grow and develop throughout the year!

The Butterflies - The children have really enjoyed returning to the Butterfly Room and settling into the new academic year. We have worked hard together to establish our new routines, which has helped to make the transition back to school a happy and smooth one. This term, we have been learning all about ourselves and our families. The children have enjoyed drawing and labelling different parts of the body, talking about their likes and dislikes, and exploring what makes their family members special to them. We have also been reading the story of The Gingerbread Man and have had lots of fun with role play, creating our very own gingerbread bakery and making some delicious gingerbread men! In Maths, we have been practising our counting skills and number formation. We have continued to enjoy our time in the PE hall, using the apparatus to develop our movement skills and practising our basic ball skills. It has been a lovely start to the new school year, and we are so proud of how well the children have settled in!

Year 3 - Year 3 have had a wonderful start to their journey in Key Stage 2! In History we have been looking at the changes in prehistoric Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age and thinking as Historians to identify and discuss different artefacts. We have learnt about the difference between light and dark, in Science, and investigated how the pupils in our eyes react to light. We have had great fun learning to sing the sea shanty, 'I've Been to Harlem' in Music and have even made our own actions to accompany the song! We have started to learn French for the first time and have been practising greetings and how to say our names in French. To go along with our great start in Year 3, we have won class of the week, for having the best attendance, 3 times in a row!

Year 4/5 - Year 4/5 have made a fantastic start to the academic year. Pupils have settled really well in their new classroom, showing an enthusiastic and inquisitive attitude towards learning. It has been wonderful to see the interest that pupils have shown in topics so far. A highlight has been in Art lessons where pupils have shown an array of artistic ability and have showcased their imagination and unique sketching styles. In Science, pupils have enjoyed practical experiments to support their learning and this has deepened their understanding.

Year 5/6 - Year 5/6 have settled in well to new surroundings and new classmates in a mixed class. We have been finding out a lot about the Windrush Generation in English, looking at drama and biographical writing from everyday people and famous people like Dame Floella Benjamin. We have studied migration in a broader sense, noting that about a third of doctors and nurses working in our NHS and care sector are non-UK nationals. In history we have looked closely at primary sources such as census returns. The children are attending swimming each Wednesday afternoon and are already making good progress.

M&M Theatrical Productions - 'Treasure Island'

We welcomed a travelling theatre company into school last week who put on a performance of Treasure Island for the whole school. The children thoroughly enjoyed the show, particularly the props and special effects which brought the experience to life for them all. Afterwards, Year 5 and Year 6 children took part in a workshop with the actors and producers on elements of theatre eg acting and operating the sound effects.

School Buddies

Our new team of School Buddies have been recruited and are undertaking their roles with a sensible and responsible attitude. School buddies play an important role in our school, having a range of responsibilities and being a role model for others in terms of behaviour, attitudes and manners. They wear a special lanyard with their name attached, a school buddy badge and distinctive high-vis vests

so that they can be easily identified around school when they are 'on duty'. They follow a rota and carry out responsibilities in the hall and outside over lunchtime.

Pupil Noticeboard

There is a pupil noticeboard in the corridor opposite the Year 3 classroom where there are photos of our buddies and the buddy rota and where we post information about school clubs (what day, what time and where) so that pupils can find out this information themselves. Any information that is relevant to our pupils - either in-school events or community events (like events at The Parks) is also posted there.

School Photographer

A reminder that our school photographer is in school on Monday (28th September). You will have already received information about this via letters and reminders on the school app. Parents are reminded that as these are school photographs, school uniform must be worn. Therefore, all children should come to school wearing their school logo sweatshirt or cardigan on Monday.

Breakfast Club

We would like to remind parents that we run a FREE daily breakfast club for all children, including Nursery. There is a wide variety of foods to choose from and special diets are catered for. Our weekly menus adapt to the children's preferences - they tell us what they'd like and we provide this (within reason!) We have the now renowned 'Bacon Butty' and 'Sausage Sarnie' Friday which is very popular with staff too! Breakfast Club opens its doors at 8.10am and closes at 8.40am. However, children are welcome at any time within this 30 minute period. We will always offer them food (even if they have eaten at home beforehand) and there is a wide range of activities and games they can take part in with friends. Next week in Breakfast Club, we are holding a special event all week which has a very special prize draw on Thursday! Children will need to come to the Breakfast Club on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to have their name put in the draw. As they say, **'You need to be 'in it to win it!'** So, if your child hasn't attended Breakfast Club before, next week is the perfect opportunity to start!

Bamburgh and Seahouses Residential Visits

We are delighted to share the news that two classes from our school have been given the opportunity to attend a FREE 2 day residential to the picturesque Bamburgh and Seahouses this term. Mr Fadden's class will be attending on 15th & 16th October, accompanied by Mr Fadden, Miss Woodcock, Mr Shaw and Mrs Yilmaz. Mr Newsome's class will be attending on 9th and 10th November, accompanied by Mr Newsome, Mrs McLeod and Miss Cameron. Letters of interest have been sent out and we will soon be providing further information about what to bring and an itinerary of the two days. We are very excited to be taking part in this new, one-off, experience for our children and, of course, at no cost to either the school or families.

Yamaha Music School assembly

We were delighted to welcome Yamaha Music School into school this week for an exciting percussion assembly for KS2! The children enjoyed listening to music played on a variety of instruments from around the globe before a group of children were invited to join in with their very own percussion jam session. It was fantastic to see the children getting involved and enjoying making music together. Yamaha Music School are also offering children the opportunity to take part in a free music lesson. If your child would like to take part, please return your letter to school to sign up!

Staffing News

Miss Beattie is now on Maternity Leave. Year 1 is now being taught by Miss Green. Miss Beattie's baby is not due until October but when the baby does arrive, I will certainly share the news with you in the next newsletter.

Miss Badminton came into school with her baby yesterday to visit the Reception class. She talked to the class about the differences between babies and children of Reception class age!

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.

Daily Communication

For parents new to Riverside, we would like to make you aware that 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. She is also out on the yard at home time.
- 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 Meals Ordering System

Can we please remind parents to order their child's school meals in advance. If they haven't placed their order beforehand, there is a chance their choice may not be available when they go for their lunch (and, of course, we don't want any child to be upset that there's nothing left to eat that they like).

SCHOOL UNIFORM / CLOTHING RAIL

Our school clothing rail in the Main Entrance has been replenished for 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 have been 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 28th September – Friday 23rd October

1st – 31st October Black History Month(2026 Theme: 'Honouring Our Communities)

Wednesday 30th September 'Do it Fair' Afternoon Tea (with parents) – 2.30pm

Thursday 1st October Autumn Census:Themed Special Lunch + Breakfast Club Special Event

Monday 5th October Harvest Festival Assembly

Friday 9th October	World Mental Health Day (2026 theme: 'Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change')
Monday 12th October	Year 5/6 'Parents into Classrooms: Book Look' 2.45pm (Certificates presented at 3.00pm)
Tuesday 13th October	Year 3 'Parents into Classrooms: Book Look' 2.45pm (Certificates presented at 3.00pm)
Wednesday 14th October	Year 1 'Parents into Classrooms: Book Look' 2.45pm (Certificates presented at 3.00pm)
Thursday 15th October	Reception 'Stay and Play' 2.45pm (Certificates presented at 3.00pm)
15th - 16th October	Seahouses/Bamburgh Residential - Mr Fadden's Class (FREE)
Friday 16th October	Nursery Stay and Play (11.30am)
Friday 16th October	Show Racism the Red Card - '30 Years of Educating on anti-racism'
Monday 19th October	Year 2 'Parents into Classrooms: Book Look' 2.45pm (Certificates presented at 3.00pm)
Tuesday 20th October	The Butterflies Stay and Play (2.45pm) (Certificates presented at 3.00pm)
Tuesday 20th October	Rec - Year 6 Parental Consultations (3.30pm - 4.30pm)
Wednesday 21st October	Year 4/5 'Parents into Classrooms: Book Look' 2.45pm (Certificates presented at 3.00pm)
Wednesday 21st October	Nursery Parental Consultations (2.00pm - 3.00pm)
Thursday 22nd October	Rec - Year 6 Parental Consultations (3.30pm - 4.30pm)
Thursday 22nd October	Nursery Halloween Disco (11.00am)
Thursday 22nd October	Halloween Disco - 1.30pm - 2.15pm (Rec & KS1) 2.15pm - 3.00pm (KS2)
Thursday 22nd October	School closes at 3.20pm for half-term
Thursday 22nd October	October's Newsletter published
Friday 23rd October	SCHOOL CLOSED for Staff Training