



Spring 1 2025

It has been an incredibly busy and wonderful half term. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first 6 weeks as Head of School at Riverside. It has been very special getting to know the children and staff. As a team we have worked incredibly hard on developing our behaviour systems in school. We have our Beehive points which the children receive for class work and behaviour which links to our 6 Rs in school. These points run from Thursday to Thursday. On a Friday afternoon, the child from each class who has received the most beehive points are invited to our special 'HOT CHOCOLATE FRIDAY'. This is where I spend time with the children playing brand new games and spending special time with them. The children receive a hot chocolate drink and a snack. So far, we have had 2 events, and they have been hugely successful. The children are all very eager to come to our 'HOT CHOCOLATE FRIDAY'. We have also relaunched our house points. Children receive house tokens at playtimes and lunchtimes for following our 6R's. At the end of the term, the house with the most tokens will be rewarded with a treat. These rewards are having a strong impact on the children's learning as they try their hardest to be the best they can be. I am really looking forward to next half term for some more exciting times at Riverside.

R Roberts

Star Award

Congratulations to all our superstar pupils that have received a star award this term. Well done and continue the hard work.

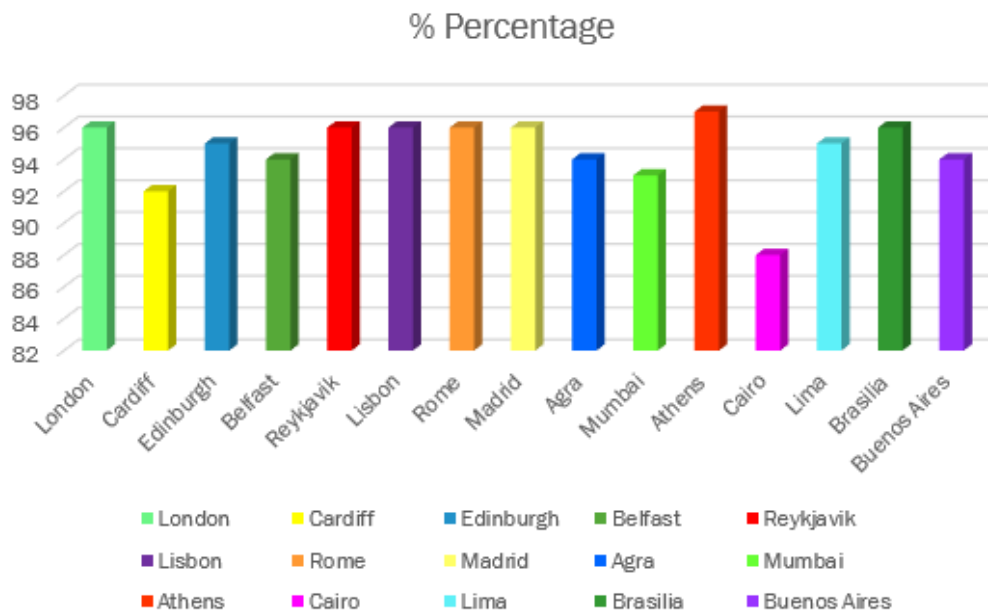




Attendance

Each half term, the class with the highest attendance will be rewarded with an afternoon of an activity of their choice.

Congratulations to **Athens** who have the highest attendance for this half term.



Reporting your child's absence

To report your child's absence from school due to sickness, please contact the school with a reason for your child's absence. Either call the school on 0116 2107373 before 8:30am and leave a message, or send an email to the school office, office@riversideacademy.org.uk

Please ensure you make non-urgent appointments e.g. to the dentist in the school holidays or after school.

Exceptional Circumstances

Requests for leave can only be granted in exceptional circumstances, a holiday would not be considered exceptional and may incur a penalty notice fine.

Punctuality

Children must be in school on time, the school doors open at 8:30am and are closed at 8:35am. When a child arrives late for school, they miss the introduction to the day and valuable learning time. It is also vital that children are collected on time at the end of the day. Being late for school and being picked up late can also be very distressing for the child. Punctuality is monitored very closely on a weekly basis.





EYFS

We are so proud of the progress that all the children are making. This half term we have been celebrating other cultures and religions. We celebrated Chinese New Year, looking at the year of the snake. We had lots of fun!





Year 1

We are so proud of the incredible progress all the children have made so far! It has been a joy to watch them grow and they've shown hard work in everything they do.

In our Lego STEM Club, the children have been building their creativity and problem-solving skills. They've tackled exciting engineering challenges, where teamwork and thinking outside the box were key. It's amazing to see their confidence grow as they use Lego bricks to create everything from bridges to machines!

Our Drumba sessions have been a highlight, with the children enjoying rhythm-based activities that enhance coordination, focus, and teamwork. These sessions have helped improve their listening skills while also allowing them to express themselves creatively through music.

In writing, our Year 1 students have been having lots of fun with riddles. Not only have they explored their imagination, but they've also learned to play with language, adding a fun twist to their writing skills. It's been wonderful to see them develop their creative writing abilities and use clues to build up suspense in their riddles!

In maths, we've been working on manipulating numbers up to 20. The children have gained a solid understanding of numbers, using various strategies to solve problems and build number sense. From ordering to number bonds, they've shown great perseverance in mastering these skills.





Year 2

Maths: Multiplication, Division, and Money This half-term, Year 2 students have been busy mastering multiplication and division. Using counters, they have explored their 2s, 5s, and 10s times tables. The children have delved into the world of money, learning about the different coins we use, calculating amounts up to £1, and solving two-step problems to find change.

English: Orangutan Fact Files In English, the children have embarked on an exciting journey to learn about Orangutans. They created detailed fact files, writing about the Orangutans' habitat, appearance, diet, and the threats they face.

Science: Animals Including Humans Our young scientists have been exploring the fascinating world of animals, including humans. They studied lifecycles, learned how animals need to be cared for, and grouped animals based on their characteristics. This hands-on approach has helped deepen their understanding of the natural world.

Religious Education: The Islamic Faith In RE, the focus has been on the Islamic faith. The children have gained insights into its beliefs, practices, and cultural significance, fostering a sense of respect and understanding for different religions.

Physical Education: Drumba PE lessons have been energetic and fun with Drumba, a combination of drumming and aerobics. This activity has helped the children develop their stamina, coordination, and resilience, all while having a great time.

Geography: Climate Change Year 2 students have been learning about climate change, understanding what it is and how human activities impact our planet. This topic has sparked thoughtful discussions on how we can all contribute to a healthier environment.



PSHE: Jobs and Skills In PSHE, the children have explored various jobs and the skills and characteristics needed for them. This has been an engaging way for them to think about their futures and the diverse opportunities available to them.

Computing: Programming with Bee-Bots Finally, in computing, the children have been introduced to programming using Bee-Bots. They have learned how to give simple instructions and understand basic programming concepts, setting a strong foundation for their future tech skills.

It's been a fantastic half-term filled with learning and growth. We are incredibly proud of all the hard work and enthusiasm our Year 2 students have shown!





Year 3

We have had a very busy half term in Year 3!

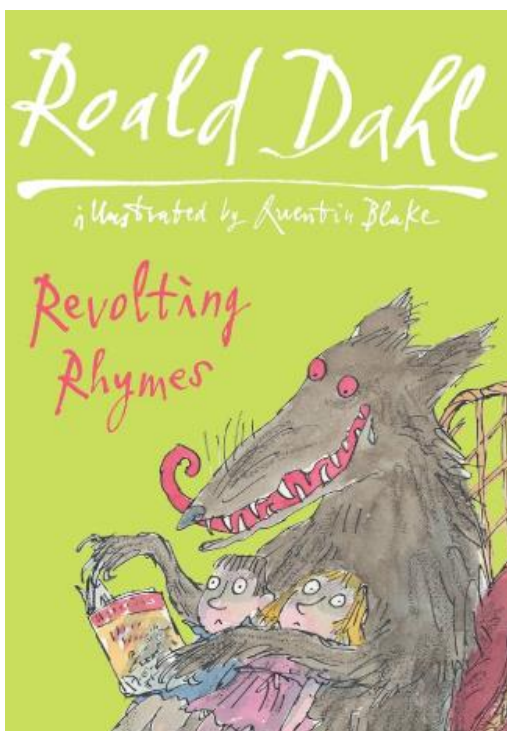
In English, we have been looking at the features of an acrostic poem and creating our own poems. The children all did amazingly and produced some fantastic poems. We have also been reading the Three Little Pigs from *Revolting Rhymes* by Roald Dahl. The children have been writing their own police incident report.

In Maths, we have been continuing our learning on multiplication and division. We are now much more confident in this area. Additionally, we have been measuring in m, cm and mm.

PE has been super enjoyable for Year 3s this half term as they have been developing their badminton skills. They have also been developing their Gymnastics with Mr Wesson.

Miss Burton has delivered Character Award sessions to the children at the end of each week which the children continue to love. During these sessions, the children develop their understanding of the 6Rs and are given the opportunity to put them into practice. The children have enjoyed learning different skills and working together as a team.

Well done to all our Year 3 children for continuing to work hard this half-term. 😊





Year 4

What an amazing and eventful half term it has been for our Year 4 stars! Every pupil has shown great enthusiasm in their learning across all subjects, and we could not be prouder of their hard work and dedication.

English We commenced the year by refining our persuasive writing skills. Our pupils enthusiastically engaged in crafting letters on the exciting topics of introducing a therapy dog into the school or inviting a member of the Leicester City Football Club to conduct engaging sessions. They diligently identified key features of persuasive writing, carried out thorough research on their chosen topics, and carefully planned, edited and published their letters.

Our next unit focused on the new and captivating book, *The Legend of Podkin One-Ear*. Pupils have been immersing themselves in the narrative and adventures of Podkin through guided reading lessons. They have also been working on writing creative character descriptions based on their own versions of the Gorm, using the text as inspiration. This exercise has involved exploring high-level vocabulary, including expanded noun phrases, alliteration, and similes. Here are some examples of their imaginative work:

'Scrammerhorns had eyes that glowed rusty red like scattered rubies in the snow.'

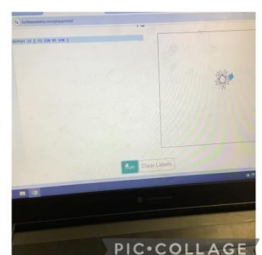
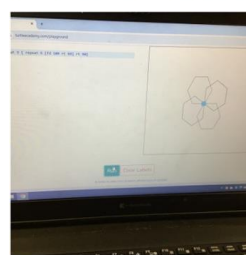
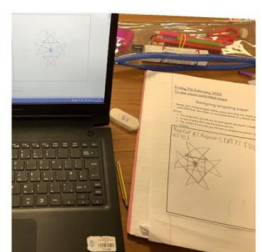
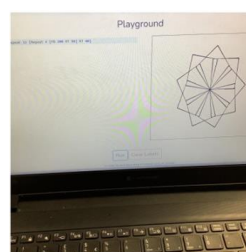
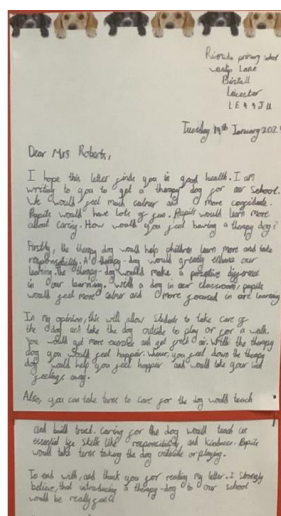
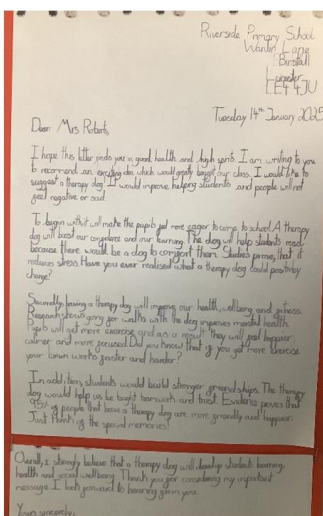
'Their armour overlapped in jagged sheets of rusted metal, sharp spikes jutting out of its back like deadly serpent fangs.'

'The Troublemaker stood fierce, tall and triumphant with one eye glowing orange like fire. His other eye was permanently closed by a deep, jagged scar.'

Looking ahead, pupils will continue to delve into the adventures of Podkin and work on writing diary entries. This will allow them to further explore the narrative and develop their creative writing skills.

Computing In Computing, pupils have actively used Turtle Academy Playground to explore and learn programming concepts. They have focused on programming repetition to create various shapes, enhancing their understanding of writing algorithms, count-controlled loops, patterns, and debugging. This hands-on experience has been both educational and enjoyable, allowing pupils to see the practical applications of coding in a fun and interactive way.

Well done to all our Year 4 pupils for another amazing half-term. 😊



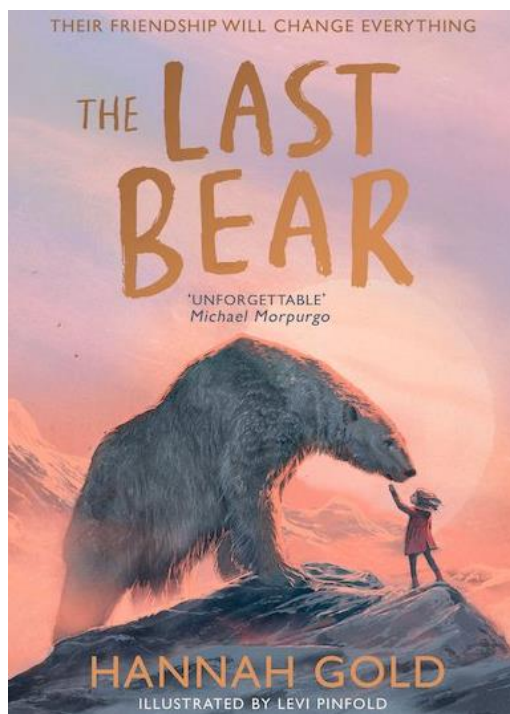


Year 5

We have had a brilliant start to our Spring term in year 5! As always, we have explored lots of new topics in our learning and pushed ourselves to meet and achieve new challenges.

English

Our English focus has been on the book "The Last Bear" by Hannah Gold. The children have loved understanding the story of an unlikely friendship and understanding the changes and differences climate change is making to our planet. Through our reading, we have had the opportunity to write in new genres such as flashbacks, which has allowed us to deepen our character understanding.



History

We are really getting stuck into our new History topic: Raiders and Invaders. The children have been learning all about daily life for the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and how some of their implementations are still used in our everyday life in the 21st Century. They've entered debates about certain City States as well as get an understanding

Science

Science has been one of our most fascinating topics so far: Earth and Space! We have put on our astronaut suits and have been discovering all about our solar system and the way it moves and works. We are currently in the middle of our shadow investigation. Why not ask us about it or even have a go at completing your own at home!

Extra curriculum

As well as our curriculum learning, we have had other exciting opportunities this term such as Bikeability and children's mental health week where we understood the importance of knowing and understanding yourself whilst always being kind to one another!

A friendly reminder for all children: complete work on Spelling Shed and Times table Rockstars. Each half term, we will send out the new spelling rules and they will be checked up (and taught) throughout each week. Also, the Space Centre trip is approaching quickly, 24th February, just a reminder that all children will need a packed lunch.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the Year 5 Team.





Year 6

Bikeability Success!

Some of our Year 6 students have been working incredibly hard to pass their Bikeability Levels 2 and 3. This program has taught them essential cycling skills, road safety, and the confidence to ride their bikes safely on the roads. We are so proud of their dedication and achievements.

Amazing Writing on Yellow Spotted Lizards

We are thrilled with our recent pieces of writing in Year 6 where our students have produced some fantastic Non-Chronological Reports on Yellow Spotted Lizards. Their creativity, attention to detail, and hard work have truly shone through in these reports. Keep up the great work, everyone!

Maths

We have also been working on decimals, algebra, and ratios. Algebra and ratio are two new topics which are on the Year 6 curriculum and they have persevered and worked incredibly hard to understand and problem solve in these two areas. Their hard work and perseverance are paying off, and we are seeing great progress. Keep up the excellent effort!

Homework Heroes

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 students for showing great responsibility in completing their homework each week. Well done to all our Homework Heroes!





Wellness Provision

Our Topics for this half term have been 'Under the Sea' and 'The Rainforest'. We have had an incredible time completing our hands-on learning! We have been learning all about these habitats and the animals that live there.

Highlights have been creating some super artwork and 'moveable' crafts, as well as researching and creating Rainforest themed games on Scratch.

Take a look at some of our super proud moments from Spring 1.





Young Voices

On Thursday 30th January, our Riverside Choir had a fabulous trip to Birmingham to take part in the Young Voices concert.

It was a long day from having rehearsals at 2pm to the final concert to parents at 7pm!



There was over 5000 children taking part and our choir of 20 shone and sang their hearts out!

If you would like to join the Riverside Choir and join in with the Young Voices concert next year, letters will be going out in the next few months to sign up.



Well done to our singing superstars!





Careers/Enterprise Day – Help required

At Riverside, we are committed to providing our pupils with a well-rounded education that prepares them for the future. As part of this commitment, we are excited to announce our upcoming **Careers/Enterprise day**, which will take place on **Wednesday 21st May** (time tbc).

To make this event a success, we are seeking volunteers to share their career experiences with our pupils. We believe that hearing about various professions directly from those who work in them will inspire and inform our pupils as they begin to think about their own future career paths.

We are looking for parents/carers/grandparents/family members/family friends who are willing to:

- Discuss the day-to-day responsibilities and challenges of their job.
- Share the educational and professional journey that led them to their current position.
- Answer questions from pupils about their career.

If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the expression of interest form using the link below by **Friday 14th March**.

<https://forms.office.com/e/CD6pMpD1dM>

All professions are welcome.

We greatly appreciate your support and look forward to your participation in making Career/Enterprise Day an informative experience for our pupils.

Further information will be sent out closer to the time. If you have any queries, please contact the school office office@riversideacademy.org.uk.



Career Day



Upcoming events

- **24th February 2025 - School opens**
- **24th February 2025 – Y5 Space Centre trip**
- **3rd March 2025 – Y6 Warning Zone trip**
- 6th March 2025 - World Book day
- 13th March 2025 - Year 6 SATs parent meeting
- 25th/26th March 2025 - Parents evening
- 4th April 2025 – EYFS/Y1 trip to The Curve
- 11th April 2025 - Last day of term
- **14th - 25th April 2025 - Easter Holidays**
- **28th April 2025 - School opens**
- **5th May 2025 - Bank Holiday**

- 21st May 2025 - Year 6 Careers/Enterprise day
- 23rd May 2025 - Last day of term
- **26th - 30th May 2025 - Half term**
- **2nd June 2025 - School opens**
- W/C 2nd June 2025 – Y4 Multiplication Table Check week
- W/C 9th June 2025 – Y1 Phonics screening check and Y2 retake week
- 12th June 2025 - Class photo day
- 16th June 2025 - Sports day
- W/C 30th June 2025 - Open classrooms - days tbc
- 11th July 2025 - Last day of term



Clubs

At Riverside we offer a number of external extra-curricular clubs, some of which are run by Riverside staff and others that are run by external groups. Visit our website for more details on available clubs

<https://www.riversideacademy.org.uk/extra-curricular/clubs/>

Charities



Stomp Round Leicester fundraiser for LOROS, the Leicestershire and Rutland Hospice

Help Riverside Primary School raise money to support LOROS, the Leicestershire and Rutland Hospice

This year we are pleased to be supporting LOROS, the Leicestershire and Rutland Hospice by taking part in Stomp Round Leicester.

Please look out for fundraising events that we will be taking part in during the year to support LOROS. If you would like to make a donation please follow the link below.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/riverside-primary-school-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL



FRIDAY 21 MARCH





Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns or safeguarding information, please email DSL@riversideacademy.org.uk

For any Child Safeguarding Concerns outside of school hours, please contact Leicestershire First Response Children's Duty on 0116 305 0005.



We want to wish you all a wonderful and restful half term break! We look forward to seeing you back in school on **Monday 24th February.**

