



Riverside Newsletter



Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity



Friday 16th December 2022

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2022!

The Autumn Term is always a very busy one indeed, but it is also one of the most enjoyable. We have a whole range of opportunities in which to showcase our wonderful Riverside SUPERSTARS (and dedicated staff!) such as; Christmas Decoration Day, EYFS nativity and Christmas carols. Alongside all of this we have a lot more to share with you.

We have had a visit from Ofsted and we are delighted to say that the children made us very proud. The report should be published in the new year which we will forward to all our amazing parents who play an important part in the school community.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all of you for supporting me in my role this Autumn term. I will be returning to my Assistant Headteacher job from January as we welcome Miss Harvey as our new Head of School. I will also be reducing my working days to 4 days in the new year.

At the end of this term we also say goodbye to Mrs Ager. Mrs Ager has been a valuable member at Riverside for over 18 years. We are grateful for everything she has done and wish her all the best for a happy and an enjoyable retirement!

Finally, it leaves me to wish you and your family a peaceful but joyful festive season and a Happy New Year. Thank you to all the parents and carers of our children – I look forward in continuing to work with you all in 2023.

Mrs Valand



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Spotlight on our new Head of School

Miss Harvey



What is your favourite colour?

Yellow. 100% yellow. Yellow makes me feel happy and reminds me of the sunshine, sunflowers, smiley faces and the summer.

What is your favourite dessert?

Cheesecake. Wherever I go in the world, I am always looking for a great slice of cheesecake. The best Cheesecake I have ever eaten was in Toronto at the Cheesecake Factory. It was a Snickers Cheesecake. It was so big and chocolatey, that I couldn't eat it all in one go. I had to take it home and finish it off the next day. Let me tell you, that doesn't happen very often!

What is your favourite genre of books/favourite book and why?

If I am reading for pleasure, I like to read a book that makes me belly laugh. You know the kind of book where you literally laugh out loud to the point that your face starts to ache and maybe even snort.

My favourite book. I have two. The Jolly Postman by Allan Ahlberg because I have the best memories of my parents reading it to me when I was little. The second is Oh, the places you'll go by Dr Suess because it reminds you to seize new opportunities, keep an open-mind, and try new things out. Whatever your age, you should totally read it!

What will you do to try to improve Riverside?

I want Riverside to be full of happy children and happy adults. I will do everything in my power to make sure that this continues to happen. I will need your help from time to time so make sure you're ready to get involved.

Why did you get into teaching?

I'll let you into a secret. I didn't always want to be a teacher. I originally trained as a graphic designer and wanted to live in London working on big advertising campaigns. When I was studying, I spent a few months working at a children's holiday camp in America as a swimming teacher and lifeguard. I loved it so much that when I came home, I decided I wanted to be a teacher. So that's what I did. I finished my degree, retrained as a teacher and never looked back.

What is the best thing about working in education?

That's an easy one. It's you! It's working with children. No two days are the same; I have the weirdest conversations; I'm surrounded by smiles and laughter and there is nothing better than seeing someone have a lightbulb moment.

If you were stranded on a desert island what three items would you have with you and why?

1. One of my dogs. Does a dog class as an item? I'm not sure which one, but I would definitely need either Marty, Bey or Doc with me for some company.
2. Teabags- I cannot survive long without a brew.
3. I guess, I should really say a box of matches, so I can start a fire. Nothing makes me grumpier than being cold or hungry. Once I've got a fire going, I can sit by it to stay warm and cook my dinner on it. Win win!!

Thank you to our school ambassadors for the fab questions and to Miss Harvey for being a good sport in taking part.

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Riverside Attendance

Firstly, and most importantly, a HUGE well done and thank you to the 100 children who have 100% attendance for the academic year to date.

Being in school on time is essential

ATTENDANCE THRESHOLDS

98% and above	Excellent	Celebration and awards
96.5 - 97.9%	Good	Attendance conversations and targets
95 - 96.4%	Satisfactory	Letter 1: Raising concerns
90 - 94.9%	Cause for Concern	Letter 2: Meeting with staff and letter 3: medical evidence required
Below 90%	Unacceptable	Further support and possible legal process

Attend Regularly
Attend Punctually
Attend Ready & Prepared to Learn

YOUR TEACHERS WILL...

- Talk to you regularly about the importance of attendance
- Put support in place and set you targets to maintain good levels of attendance
- Acknowledge when you achieve a full month's attendance
- Celebrate when you reach the level of good attendance



REGULAR ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT FOR...

- Positive wellbeing and support
- Positive attainment and outcomes
- Wider life chances and experiences



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A is for Attendance!

Obviously, attendance levels, especially at this time of year, can be affected by illness, particularly colds and tummy bugs. We would therefore encourage all parents to send their children into school wherever possible. However, if they have been ill with sickness and/or diarrhoea, please keep them off school until they have been symptom free for a minimum of 48 hours to prevent the bug spreading throughout the school community as this has a significant, adverse effect on attendance levels.

Reporting an absence



If your child is too ill to attend school, please contact the school office in the morning with full details of your child's illness/symptoms. If we do not hear from you, we will ring you to find out why your child is not in school. If we are unable to make contact and you do not provide a reason for your child's absence, this absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

It is essential that your child is at school on time and ready to learn. Any unauthorised absence negatively impacts on our overall attendance figure as well as your child's attendance and achievement levels. Arriving on time for school is important as children miss important information during registration including the plan of the day and the learning of the day.

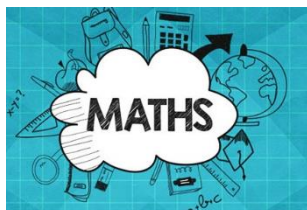
To report an absence please call 0116 2107373 or email the school office.

office@riversideacademy.org.uk

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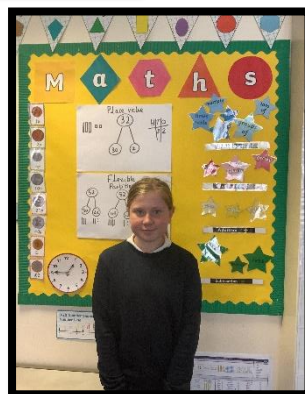
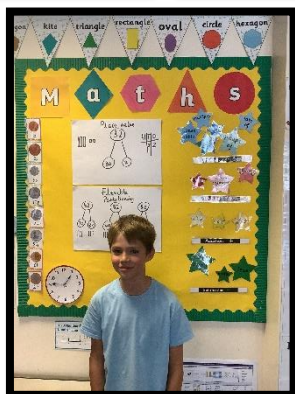
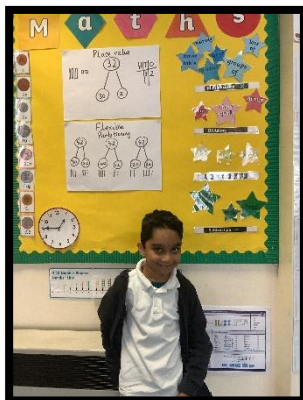


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Maths Magicians

Here are some of our wonderful Maths Magicians...



Our Maths Magicians, will be working alongside Mrs Hayes and Mrs Ashcroft to challenge their peers with Maths activities during Tuesday lunchtimes and promoting Maths across our school. As passionate mathematicians, they have already been hard at work this term making posters about how Maths is full of life skills and is a key part of our curriculum.

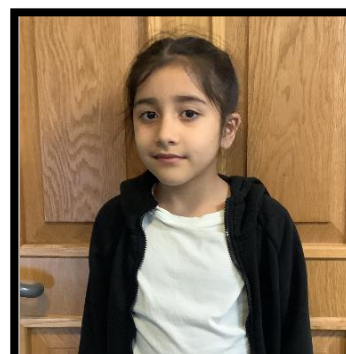
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PSHE Protectors



Meet our brand new PSHE Protectors – a unique new role introduced at Riverside at the start of this academic year focusing on celebrating diversity, equality and all things related to personal development. Our new ambassadors share a variety of incredible skills and ideas, which together are helping to support growth throughout our school.

The first challenge on their agenda is to start working towards becoming a Rights Respecting School. UNICEF's Rights Respecting School initiative aims to educate children on their rights. Our PSHE Protectors are taking charge of this by educating their peers through assemblies and creating our school action plan for our bronze award!



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Riverside School

Ambassadors

At the beginning of the year, children can apply to become School Ambassadors through a whole school election process.

The School Ambassadors work closely with Mrs Valand throughout the year to promote and develop the school. They are excellent role models to their peers and encompass all of the school's core values: Respect, Resilience, Responsibility, Reflection, Reciprocity and Resourcefulness. This year the school ambassadors have decided to work on a project around Global Warming and what Riverside School can do to support this. They have taken their ideas to their classrooms and have discussed with their peers' suggestions on what and how we can do our bit.

They will collate ideas and using the views from the children will create posters to have around the building.

Watch this space!

The School Ambassadors for Riverside Primary School are as follows:

Nancy Jones	Lisbon
Louie Plume	Paris
Kai Masterson	Reykjavik
Lily Grace Burdett	Tokyo
Aiva Grace Warren	Rome
Esmay Michael	Mumbai
Noah Howe	New Delhi
Malaika Khoso	Lime
Cameron Kirby	Cairo



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Crazy Scientists



Our super science ambassadors have been out promoting science all throughout the school, even on the playground!

They had a full schedule planned during the term and are already coming up with activities to do in the new year.



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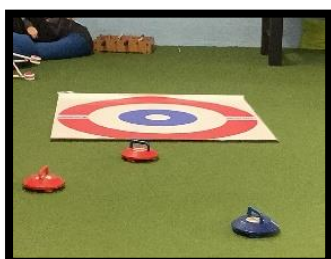


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PE Champions

This term, the PE Champions have been involved with a number of activities. Firstly, they had a great opportunity to develop their leading knowledge and skills when they took part in a half a day training session, taught how to direct activities and support others. Children were shown a variety of games and how to get the best out of other pupils by altering games to suit the needs of participants.

Recently, the PE champions led a Children in Need activity session in the Wellbeing Centre. The Champions were kind enough to give up their lunch hour to lead a number of activities to support pupil mental and physical wellbeing. In advance of the event, the group met and discussed what activities were going to be on offer. Then, each child was linked to a station - offering a range of fun activities: guess the teddy's name, new age curling, target throw and a dance and doodle station.



It was a fantastic effort by all the children and they should be proud of how well it went. We look forward to our next challenge.

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Year 1

Year 1 have had a great start to the new school year, showing fantastic resilience as their learning has continued to progress.

In the classroom, we have particularly enjoyed learning about different materials in our science lessons. The children have shown great interest and curiosity when carrying out experiments to discover whether materials are waterproof, transparent or absorbent.

We have also had many opportunities this term to learn outside of the classroom. In Geography, the children used the character muscle of teamwork to navigate themselves around the school to find the hidden treasure.

The children showed fantastic respect when visiting the Methodist Church. They loved seeing Santa and all the beautiful decorations that were on display, some made by Riverside pupils themselves!

Overall, Year 1 are not only growing as learners but also as respectful, kind individuals within the school and we are greatly looking forward to the next term!



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Year 2

Year 2 have been absolute superstars this term! They are consistently challenging themselves, displaying our 6Rs and growing their love of learning.

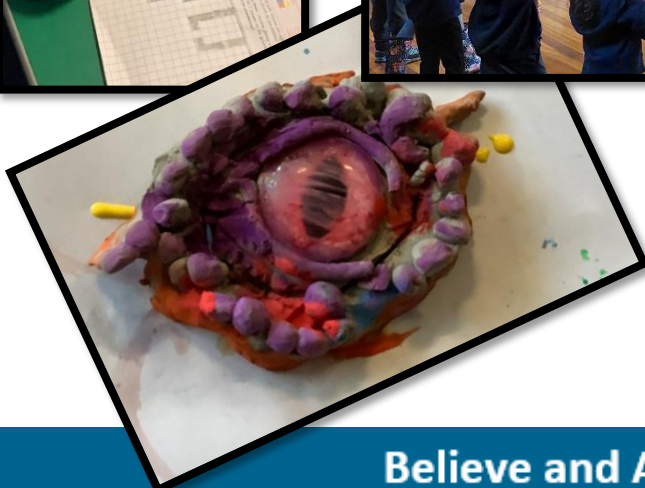
One of our highlights this term has been visiting Tamworth castle where we learnt all about lords and ladies and their lives within the castle walls. We even got to try out jousting whilst we were there.

In the classroom, we have been working on our problem-solving skills and learning all about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We have also enjoyed reading our class book "The boy who grew dragons" which we took inspiration from to create our own wanted posters for the naughty dragons who stole our pencils!

Resilience and creativity are character muscles we have been developing this term, particularly during our creating of our clay dragon eyes and building our drawbridge pulleys for a castle.

Overall, Year 2 are flourishing both personally and academically and we couldn't be prouder!

We can't wait to extend our knowledge even more in the new year.



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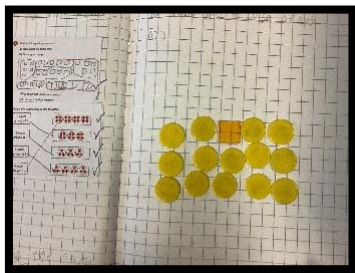
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Year 3

Year 3 have had a fantastic start to the year and have had much to celebrate. In Music, the children have been learning to use a very unusual instrument called a "Boomwhacker" and have been learning to play music, read notation and improvise over backing tracks.

The children have worked really hard in all lessons and have been making progress in English through writing a narrative, a diary and a non-chronological report.

Through our topic of Raiders and Invaders, we have designed and made our own Roman shields in DT and have been working on a mosaic in our Art lessons. We have also been comparing the Romans and the Vikings and asking the question; which would we rather be? Ask us to find out!



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Year 4

Year 4 have had a super start to the year and have had much to celebrate. In French the children have been learning different parts of the body, what they like to eat and why. They are showing confidence and flair in speaking French and with a lovely accent!

Your children have shown resilience in lessons and they are enjoying their learning. In English, they have written letters, a non-chronological report, poetry, and a diary entry. In maths, we have added, subtracted, covered place value, rounding, area of shapes, learned about odd and even numbers and recently we are working on multiplication and division.

Through our topic of Tudors, we went to the Battle of Bosworth fields and it was fascinating! The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Tudor monarchs, especially what happened to Henry VIII's wives! We have also covered what Tudor houses were like and even made pottage, which is a thick soup made with vegetables and oats.

This first term has been wonderful and we look forward to the next one with anticipation. We have lots more exciting learning planned and we look forward to seeing our children become more confident and show even more progress.



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Year 5

Year 5 have had a great start to the year and have shown everyone that they are all champions!

We have particularly enjoyed our Ancient Greece topic; where we have learnt about what life was like, the history of the Olympics and Greek gods and goddesses in History. In English, we have been reading *Who Let the Gods Out?* which inspired our writing of exciting narratives, newspaper reports and poetry. We have been enjoying DT, where we have learnt how to safely chop ingredients in preparation to making a Greek salad. We were excited to welcome our external visitor who took us back in time to learn even more about Ancient Greece through an interactive drama workshop. We had an absolutely fun morning and learnt using new methods!

This term, we have shown resilience and perseverance in our weekly swimming lessons. We have enjoyed learning new skills and the importance of safety in water.

We happily welcomed in the festive season by learning carols for our Christmas Carol performance and making Christmas decorations with friends and family.

Year 5 have worked extremely hard this term and we cannot wait to get stuck back in after the Christmas break.



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Year 6

Year 6 have blown us away with their consistent resilience, positive attitude and growing independence throughout this term. They have thrown themselves into immersive learning experiences at Beaumanor Hall, challenged themselves personally at Pioneer and continued to be captivated by their learning inside the classroom.

Academically, they have loved reading Goodnight Mr Tom and War Horse, tackled many problem-solving challenges around the four operations and fractions and even taken on new knowledge about Charles Darwin and Carl Linnaeus in Science. Their minds are growing each day and we couldn't be prouder of what they have achieved so far!



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EYFS



Foundation Stage have had a very festive month and have learnt and performed their nativity play! The children worked hard to learn all the songs, actions, dances and parts in the play. We really hope the Foundation Stage families enjoyed having the opportunity to come and watch us perform. We certainly loved wearing our costumes and heading for the big stage!

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Breakfast/Afterschool Clubs

In our 'out of school' clubs we have been spreading Christmas cheer by creating our very own kindness well-being advent calendar. The children worked together to put together caring words and positive affirmations so all of our children and staff are reminded of the importance of looking after our body and minds. Other activities we have been working on is planning, designing and creating projects through junk modelling. We have even created our own Christmas decorations to place on our Christmas tree. We can't wait for all the new activities and opportunities to explore in the new year!

Merry Christmas everyone!

From the 'Out of school club team'



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Riverside PTA



The Christmas fair in November was a huge success and we raised over £1,200. Many thanks to all staff, parents and carers who did their bit to help us make this happen.

We've asked the staff from each year group to suggest things that we can use to buy with the money that has been raised to benefit all of the pupils.

They have come back to us with their ideas so the money from this event will be spent on a selection of board games for wet playtimes and some mini trampolines to use for sensory circuits.

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Christmas at Riverside

We have had a very busy Christmas at Riverside. We invited parents/carers to help on Decoration Day, our 'littlest' people showing off their acting skills in their Christmas nativity and Key stage 1 and 2 showcasing their beautiful singing voices to perform carols for everyone.

We were also lucky enough to be invited to decorate a tree for the Birstall Methodist Church annual Christmas tree festival. Our theme was 'Christmas wishes', - it was lovely to see the creativity and thoughtfulness that went into the children's angel decorations for our tree.



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Thank You

Riverside Primary School prides itself on community, we support charities whenever we can but this would not be possible without the generosity of our pupils and their families.

This year we have raised a huge amount for some fantastic charities.

EYFS Macmillan Coffee Morning	£266.50
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Bright for Sight	£296.79
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Poppy Day	£556.50
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Children in Need	£237.67
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We have also had an overwhelming response for the Birstall Food Hub.



Thank you, everyone, for your kind donations.

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Term Dates

Spring Term 2023	
Tuesday 3 rd January	Teacher training day
Wednesday 4 th January	School Opens
Friday 17 th February	School Closes
20 th – 24 th February	Spring Half Term
Monday 27 th February	School Opens
Friday 31 st March	School Closes
3 rd – 14 th April	Easter Holiday
Summer Term 2023	
Monday 17 th April	School Opens
Monday 1 st May	Bank Holiday
Monday 8 th May	Closed to mark the Coronation of King Charles III
Friday 26 th May	School Closes
29 th – 2 nd June	Summer Half Term
Monday 5 th June	School Opens
Friday 14 th July	School Closes



Wishing all our pupils, parents/carers and staff a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy 2023.

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