



Riverside News



Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

11th February 2022

7th Edition



Well that's another half term flown by! It's been fantastic to be back at school and to feel the Riverside buzz. A massive thank you to all of our superstar children and to you superstar parents/carers for your incredibly warm welcome back.

The curriculum is continuing to flourish at Riverside, the children have enjoyed the full spectrum of learning including Latin in Y3, Character Award in Y4 and swimming lessons in Y5. We also warmly welcome back 'Forest Schools' with Miss Attwood-Clarke, with the first group of forest foragers enjoying their weekly Friday session.

Our swimming pool renovation is now complete and we are looking forward to unveiling the new 'wellness centre' soon after the half term break. It is still awaiting furnishings but we are hopeful the space will be ready to use in the very near future. This is an exciting space as we will be using the centre to further support the social, emotional and well-being needs of our children as well as using the space to support local community groups and our other Birstall primary schools. Watch this space for further information including an open evening event where parents/carers will be invited to have a look around.

Breakfast club has continued to thrive and we are looking forward to extending the provision further by moving into our new 'Wellness Centre' sometime in the Summer Term. This would then accommodate greater numbers of children as well as space to provide a wider variety of activities. If you would like to book a space please contact the school office.

As many of you will be aware we have been hit by staff and children absence during this term. In terms of teaching we have, as always, tried to ensure consistency and support for our children. Work has been uploaded to the VLE as well as teachers emailing work out to children directly to support children isolating at home. It has been unfortunate that some year groups and classes have been more heavily affected than others and I thank everyone for their support and understanding during what has been a very difficult time. We hope the new term will see a more settled attendance rate across the school community.

We were very pleased to welcome Miss Gillies back last week – she will be taking over from Mrs Ashcroft in Y2 Paris. Miss Gillies is an experienced Y2 teacher who will be working alongside Mrs Bolstridge in Y2 Paris. We are also very pleased to welcome Mrs Waters back this week, she will be back to her usual Thursday/Friday teaching days alongside Mrs Green in Y5 Lima.

As we approach the start of the new half term can I politely remind everyone about the importance of school uniform and ensuring we follow the policy. I have spoken to the children about smartness and that we expect them to be in full school uniform. On PE day the children should attend in PE kits as outlined in the uniform policy, not football shirts or kits. If your child has a sports club at lunch time they should attend in full school uniform and bring their sportswear including footwear to change into at lunch time.

We hope you have a lovely break and look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 21st February.

Mrs Williams

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Pupil Ambassadors



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House Captains

Since the start of the academic year, our house captains have been busy each week collecting and counting house tokens and then filming short videos to reveal the scores for that week. They have all been fantastic representatives for their houses and have been very dedicated to the job of promoting the six R's at Riverside and inspiring their houses to do the best that they can each and every week.



Autumn Term Results

1st – Swithland 2750

2nd – Watermead 2256

3rd – Abbey – 2050

4th – Bradgate - 1980

Competition Time

The house captains need your help!

They would like you to design a poster promoting the 6 R's to be displayed around the school. If you would like to enter, hand your poster into your class teacher by Wednesday 23rd February. Winners will be announced in the House Captain points reveal. Good Luck!

Reading Ambassadors



Our new reading ambassadors have been settling into their roles since the end of the Autumn term. They have been busy keeping our library areas tidy, distributing new texts around the school and promoting books to other children. Some of our older ambassadors have also been holding lunch time reading clubs where they have done a fantastic job of reading to some of the younger pupils in school and sharing their love of reading with others. We are extremely proud of all of their hard work and look forward to setting them some more tasks throughout the rest of the year.

Competition Time

Our reading ambassadors love to read and share their favourite books but now they want to hear about the books that you love. In honour of the 25th anniversary of World Book day, they will be running a book review competition. Please write a review about your favourite book and include some illustrations to go with your writing. Hand your book reviews to your class teacher by Friday 25th February. Winners will then be announced on World Book Day. Good Luck!

World Book Day

On Thursday 3rd March, we will be celebrating World Book Day. Please help us to celebrate this day by coming to school dressed as your favourite book character. We can't wait to see who you'll be!

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Pupil Ambassadors



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Eco warriors

Meet our Riverside Eco warriors:



Year 2



Year 3



Year 4



Things to look out for after half term at Riverside:

- Litter picking by our fantastic 8 eco warriors at lunch times
- Posters around school that encourage recycling and looking after our planet
- Introducing compost bins per class
- Educating people on how to be more eco friendly in what they use and what they buy

Year 5



Year 6



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Pupil Ambassadors



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Maths Ambassadors

At Riverside we all share a huge passion for mathematics and truly do enjoy exploring numbers. Riverside's Maths Mathematicians have set up an exciting club where children can spend time engaging in exciting and educational games which use and apply maths skills. Games in our club include Uno, Monopoly and Tetris.

"I love being a mathematician because I get to help lots of children in the lower years and I teach them skills they can apply to their maths," – Vihaan Patel (5 Athens)

If you are interested in learning maths in a fun and sociable manner, please do attend our maths club which is on Tuesday lunchtime in Mrs Greenaway's classroom down in Foundation Stage.



MATHS JOKE OF THE DAY...

Why are obtuse angles so depressed?



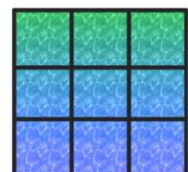
Because they're never right.

CAN YOU SOLVE THIS MATHS PUZZLE?

Math Riddle #1: Truth or Square?



How many total squares are there?



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Pupil Ambassadors



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Science Ambassadors

Chloe Zayne Kian Freddie



Leon Jessica Nyah Zuha



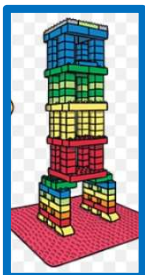
As Science Ambassadors, we love experiments! As a group, we meet up and come up with different Science experiments we can do on the playground for Riverside Pupils to have a go and join in with!

Our last experiment: The jumping rice experiment (Sound)

Can we see sound? We can't see sound itself with our bare eyes but we can see the vibrations the sound creates just like the rice on the drum when struck with a beater.



Our next Experiment: Who can create the tallest structure using Lego?



Which Structure is the most stable?

How should I structure the base of my tower?

What material will have the best properties to make my tower strong and secure?

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LGBTQ+ Month



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As part of our Diversity work, we have been working hard at Riverside to ensure that our school environment is fully inclusive and that we both recognise and celebrate that we are all unique.

The first week back after half term we are celebrating LGBTQ+ month with the children. I will be starting the celebrations with an introduction assembly and the class teachers will then be following this up with class assemblies and learning activities cross the week.

As part of my assembly I will be talking about and sharing photos of my family as well as sharing stories from other LGBTQ+ families. Here is one of the photos I will be sharing with the children of my Wife and I with Abel on his very first Christmas Eve 😊



We are sure the children at Riverside will fully embrace the week and will thoroughly enjoy celebrating and learning about the diverse families we have in our community.

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Sports



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Cross Country

On Saturday 29th we had the last Cross Country event of the year at Ratcliffe College. It was a brilliant turn out by Riverside Students and it was fantastic to see so many familiar and new students join in.

Well done to those who participated. Each child got a water bottle at the finish line for their efforts. All our students did us proud. A huge well done goes out to Riley in Year 4 who finished in the top 10.



Year 1 and 2 Fun Run.

As part of the Ratcliffe Cross Country events, a fun run was held for the year 1 and 2 children. It was great to see some many come down at the weekend to experience what cross country is like. I hope that has inspired them to continue running and we will get to see them again next year.



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Sports



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Football

It has been a great season so far the Riverside Football team. We started off the year with a joint 2nd place finish in the Rice Bowl qualifications. From there we have grown in strength. During the Autumn term, the football team secured a top place finish in the first league. Finishing first, put us into League One where are sitting at the summit of the table after 10 games. We have 10 more games to go but have put ourselves in a positive place for a great finish.

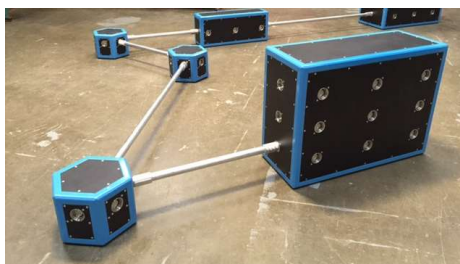
School	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	F	A	GD	Points
Riverside	10	8	1	1	16	1	15	27
St Pauls	10	5	2	3	10	2	8	23
Stafford Leys	10	2	3	5	7	4	3	19
Gaddesby	10	2	5	3	6	10	-4	17
Churchill	10	3	6	1	6	16	-10	17
STP + STP	10	2	6	2	6	18	-12	16

unchtime football club

The football clubs at lunchtimes have been very successful and oversubscribed in the first term. Year 6 football club continues to run at lunch on a Monday and year 5 and 6 girls' club runs on a Tuesday. In the summer term, we will have a year 4/5 club in preparation for the 2022/23 season and the Girls will be participating in the Girls' Football League.

Parkour

Some of our children have been lucky enough to participate in some Parkour activities in school. Run by Leicester City in the Community, the children have had the chance to learn how to jump, land and roll on and off different piece of equipment.



Swimming

Year 5 have had the great opportunity to participate in swimming lessons at Highcliffe's pool. It is great to see the children back in the pool and learn a vital lifesaving skill.

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Y6 Sports Leaders



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The Sports Leaders have been very busy so far this year developing their coaching skills.

In November they ran a whole host of events on Children in Need day helping to raise funds and keep everybody active!



They had been planning a few competitions for younger pupils but an increase in COVID cases across the school has meant we needed to postpone these events until later in the year.

They are currently planning an inter-tutor Zone ball competition for Year 6s which will take place after half term, as well as getting ready Comic Relief Day on March 18th. As part of this year's Comic Relief event we will be encouraging all classes across the School to join the National Event of 50 miles in March! Leaders will be setting up a Competition for all classes across the school to log how many miles they can complete in March culminating in a Fancy Dress Run around school on March the 18th.



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Refugee Week



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Riverside children were learning about Refugees and what their feelings were when they have to leave their own countries because it is not safe to live there.

We focused on a book called "The Day War Came". The children were very thoughtful about the refugees and how they would treat them if they came to our school. We were very proud of them as they shared some lovely thoughts.

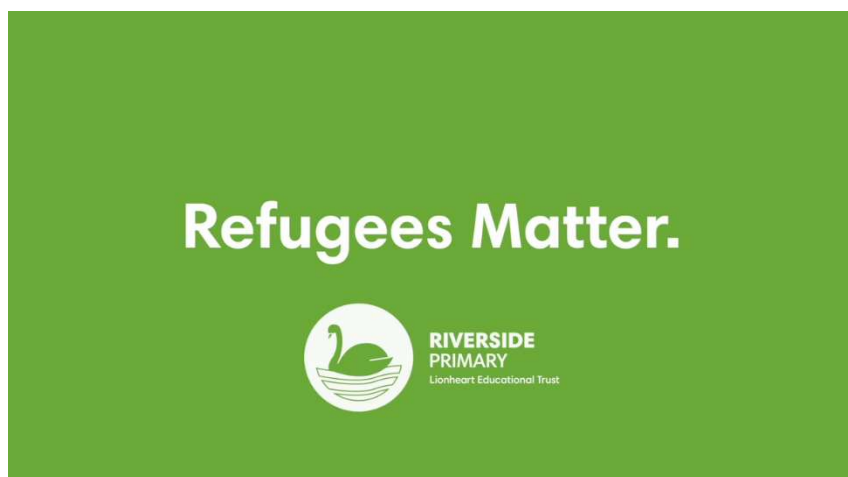
We would like to share some of the work we did across the school.

If you would like to read the story with your child please follow the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybFA9XZyij5>

Some of our children recorded a video talking about what they have learned during Refugee Week.
We encourage all Parents and Carers to visit our website on the below link to watch the video

<https://vimeo.com/675471499/f427f2112c>



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Pupil Premium



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Are you eligible for financial support with after school clubs, school trips and milk?

Examples of how pupil premium can support children includes exciting new learning activities and opportunities to widen their life experiences, financial support for after school clubs, school trips and school milk to name a few.

Pupil Premium is extra government money which is paid to schools to support children's learning and development.

This funding is targeted at students facing the greatest disadvantage. The Government believes that Pupil Premium is the most effective way to address the current underlying inequalities between children eligible for Free School Meals and their wealthier peers. Pupil Premium is therefore provided to any child currently eligible for Free School Meals that the school is aware of, and to any child who has at any stage in the past six years been eligible – children in care, and those who have spent at least one day in the care system, and the children of parents who are serving in the armed forces, are also eligible.

Your child may be able to get pupil premium if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

**If you think you may be eligible, please contact the Free School Meal team
at Leicestershire County Council on 0116 305 5000**

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The PTA has had a brand-new core team this year who have been working hard behind the scenes organising a range of exciting events for Riverside. All the money raised through our PTA, is then used to purchase new exciting things for our students.

Some of the things we have purchased in the past include: Foundation Stage book bags, the fort, Year 6 leavers jumpers, gymnastics mats for after school clubs, iPads and many more!

As PTA members, we have high hopes that our PTA events can get back to some sort of normality, allowing us to do larger, social events but we have lots of ideas for smaller scale events we can begin with this year.

Christmas Card Competition

In December, we ran a Christmas Competition where children made their very own Christmas Cards and donated 50p. Winners were chosen and Christmas themed prizes were given out to our winners. The rest of the wonderful cards were distributed to elderly members of the local community as part of the 'Pay it Forward Meal' scheme being run by Ruth's Catering (previous Lambourne Cafe owner)



Volunteers

The PTA always welcome volunteers to help at our events and we hold a termly informal meeting, where we all share ideas, plan events and have a hot drink and treats amongst friends! Keep your eyes peeled for our next meetings ☺



Break the Rules Day 11th Feb



Mothers Day Gift Shop- Dates TBC



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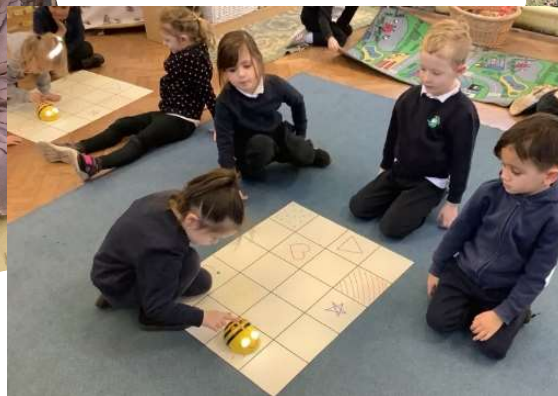
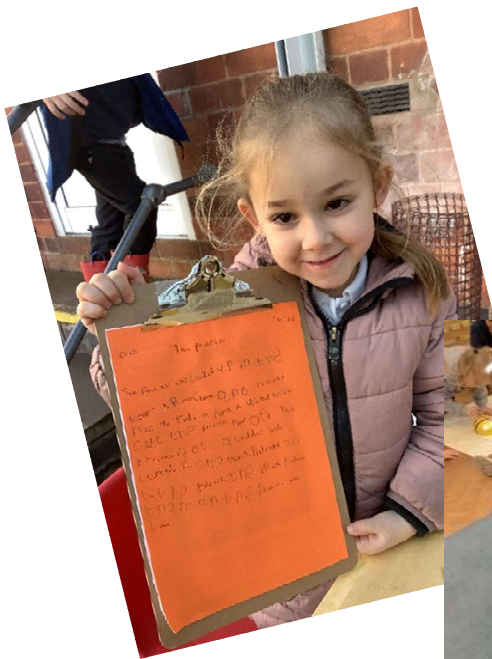
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The Bears and the Eagles have been very busy learning lots of new sounds in phonics, recently we have been learning more 'special friend' sounds like 'ee', 'ow' and 'igh' this has been helping us to read. Lots of children read at home everyday which is fantastic and helps them to earn special prizes like a bookmark and a wristband!

We have also been thinking about signs of winter and looking out for seasonal changes, this is very important when we think about what sort of weather we might see in winter and what we need to wear to keep us warm.

In our classroom we have had a new addition of 'Beebots' which are little robots that we can move by pressing buttons. We have really enjoyed giving the Beebots instructions and using the maps to get to a destination!

We have started to write our own stories using the sounds that we have learnt and had a go at putting them together to make a word. We love writing stories about monsters and unicorns but also, we love to write about our families and what makes them special to us. Of course, we have also been doing lots of learning in the moment and making an adventure out of every day!



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Year 1



Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

The children in Year 1 are so passionate about climate change. The children have wanted to pursue different ways of raising awareness about global warming and finding ways to make a difference.

We have been learning about using exclamation marks in our English lessons to make people listen and so we have featured these in posters that we have made about climate change. We are going to share our posters with Birstall Council to see if we can have them put up in the village to remind people about what climate change is and what they can do to help.

Our next plan is to go and do some litter picking at Watermead as we know how bad litter is for animals and the environment.

What a brilliant army of eco-warriors!



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Year 2



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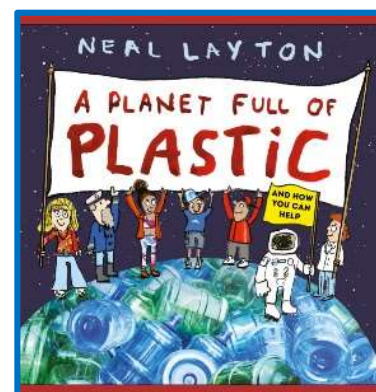
Year 2 have had a brilliant start to 2022, we have been exploring how plastic is made, how it can affect our environment and what we can all do to help.

In English we have read the books 'A planet full of plastic' and 'The journey home'. The children have loved exploring different ways to help our planet and environment, we even wrote a persuasive letter to Ms Williams explaining how we can reduce plastic in our schools and also re-told our own story of 'The journey home'.

Furthermore, in geography we have been asking geographical questions and exploring different maps, looking at their features and their symbols. In addition to this, we also had lots of fun making ourselves into 'where's Wally' and locating where we live on a map.

In computing, we have been developing our skills and using the website 'Scratch' learning how to code. We can now create a sprite and code them to move and talk.

We are incredibly proud of the resilience and determination of all the children in Year 2 this term and we cannot wait to learn more next term!



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Year 2



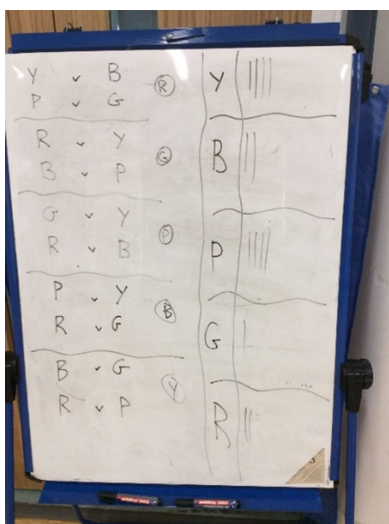
Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

Paris have enjoyed learning how to play the game Hockey. They have developed their skills and knowledge of how to use a Hockey stick and have practised demonstrating control by dribbling the ball around cones as well as shooting. They have taken the time to build up their control of using a hockey stick and have played a range of skills-based games to develop their speed.

Paris have even begun to learn the rules of the game of Hockey and how to be a good team player. The children thoroughly enjoyed playing a tournament and working together as a team. They observed each other playing and were able to give praise and encouragement, alongside some handy tips of how they could improve further.

We have been really proud of Paris for their commitment, enthusiasm and resilience with playing the game.

Go Paris!



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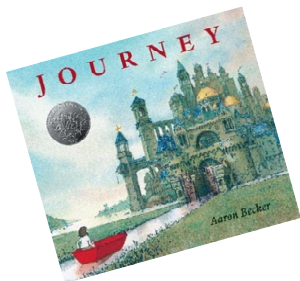
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Year 3

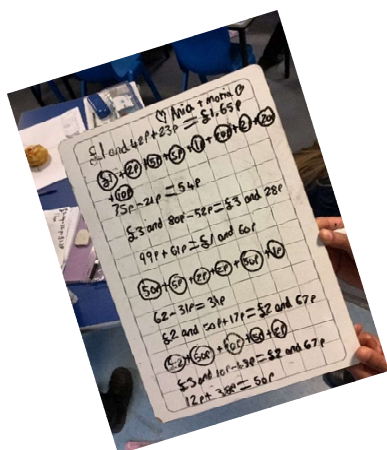
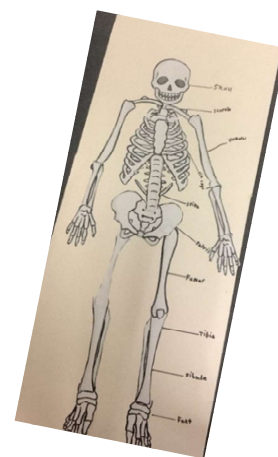


Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity



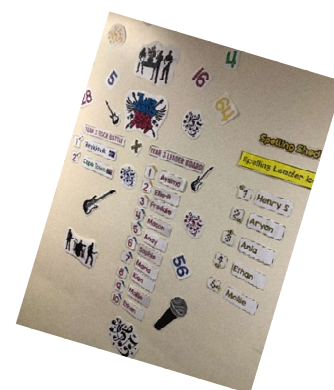
This term, Year 3 have been looking at the world around us. The children have been reading the book 'Journey'. This inspired our diary entries and many other pieces of writing. The children have worked hard to learn how to develop their sentences and use a range of punctuation

In science we have been looking at animals including humans. The children have been investigating how to classify different animals by the type of backbone that they have and by the categories that they fall into: mammals, insects, birds, etc. We went on a walk down to the canal to see what impact human activity has had on the local area and to see what types of animals we could find. In addition, we looked at the locks and what they are there and how they work. We discovered the difference between a river and a canal and we looked at how humans use the water.



In maths, we finished off our topic on multiplication and moved onto money. We were able to recognise coins and notes. Moreover, we looked at how we add and subtract different amounts of money.

To develop the children's times table knowledge, we have set up battles between the two classes on Times Tables Rock Stars. We have a leader board outside the classroom that is updated each day. Reykjavik have been in the lead so far but Cape Town are catching up!



We have started to learn French in Year 3. So far, we have been looking at basic greetings, classroom instructions and animals. The children have enjoyed learning a new language.

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Year 4



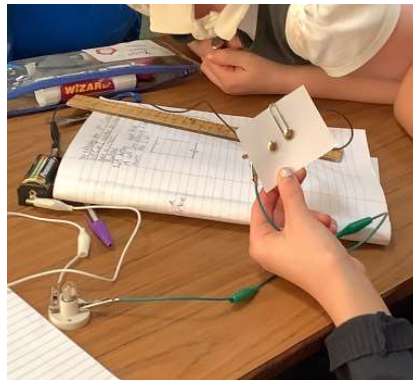
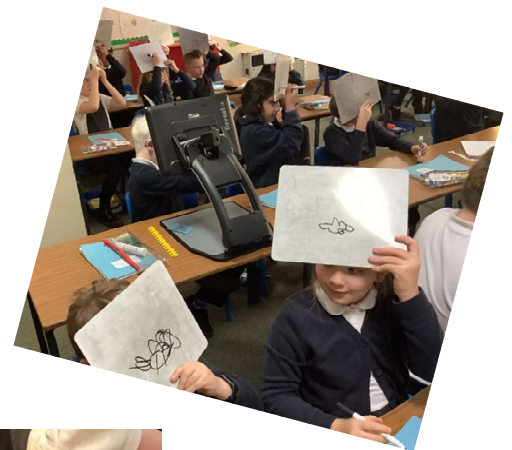
Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

Year 4 have had a brilliant start to 2022, undertaking a variety of different topics and skills. In English, we created passionate discussion texts, arguing why animals shouldn't be performing in circuses. As well as this, year 4 have been learning and producing 3 different types of poetry: Kennings, Tankas and Haikus. Each of these poems came with a range of features that the children in year 4 mastered to able to write their very own poems all about circuses. We have just begun learning all about instructions, and we will continue this into Spring 2.

In science, we have completed our topic on electricity, which involved creating circuits, incorporating switches and experimenting with conductors and insulators. We have recently begun our next topic of forces, which we are very excited about and will link in heavily with our topic of fairgrounds.

Year 4 have excelled in computing this term, learning how to edit photos in a variety of ways. In DT, we have researched fairgrounds and in pairs we have picked an aspect of fairgrounds we will be making. We have learnt about how fairgrounds work, including levers and pulleys, and we will be using this knowledge to make a replica ride out of recycled materials.

We have also continued our schools linking with Brocks Hill Primary School, and video called them earlier this half term. We played some games with them where got to know the other class better. Both classes have also continued learning important skills in character award, including first aid.



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Year 5



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This term, Year 5 have blasted off into space and have been exploring the solar system. We have been discovering the different properties of the planets, investigating how the movement of the Earth affects the length of our shadows and described how the planets and moons move around the sun.



Here are some photos of all three classes acting out the different themes in Hidden Figures. We really enjoyed using drama to share our interpretation of our thoughts in regards to the book.

Furthermore, we have been reading Hidden Figures in English this term. It has been inspirational to learn about the lives of four influential women and how they conquered segregation and gender inequality to achieve their dreams. As part of our class book, we have written insightful diary entries, persuasive letters and gripping narratives.

In History, Year 5 have been focusing on the famous astronaut Neil Armstrong and his experience on the moon. The children have produced comic strips that share his story from childhood to outer space.



In art, we have been focusing on the artist Peter Thorpe and have been analysing his abstract artwork. We had a go at producing our own pieces in his style.



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Year 6



Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

It has been a fantastic start to our Spring Term diving straight into our new topic: South America. The children have loved looking at the world map, identifying countries and continents. Additionally, they have been fascinated by the Amazon Rainforest which is the setting of our class text: *The Explorer*.

We have been learning about the circulatory system in Science, where the children have been captivated, finding out about the different parts of our heart, blood vessels and what blood is actually made up of!

We are so proud of our Year 6's and how hard they have been working this year!

The Year 6 Team



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Attendance



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Riverside promotes excellent school attendance, recognising the clear links between attendance and attainment, and attendance and safeguarding children. Our aim is for all the children on roll to attend school every day, provided that they are fit and healthy enough to do so.

Parents and Carers are asked only to withdraw their child from school if it is absolutely unavoidable. The school monitors the attendance of individual children and meet with parents where there is a concern.

Procedures for Absence

Illness

If your child is not well enough to attend school, please let us know by 9am on the day by telephone (0116 210 7373) or via e-mail to office@riversideacademy.org.uk. Please provide the reason for absence, as serious contagious diseases such as chicken pox might have implications for other children and their families.

Medical Appointments

We would expect medical and dental appointments to take place outside school hours, but if children do need to be taken out of school to attend such appointments please ensure you inform the School Office in advance and supply a copy of the appointment letter. All children leaving school during the school day must be signed out at the School Office when they leave and then signed in when they return.

Lateness

It is very important that your child is punctual in arriving at school. Before registration children engage in a range of activities to practise key skills of times table, number recall and spellings. If your child is late for any reason, please sign them in at the School Office.

Other Absences

If, exceptionally, you know that your child is going to be absent from school for any period of time (even if it is only part of a day) please seek authorisation in advance by completing the Authorised Absence Request Form available from the School Office. The Government and the school wish to discourage pupils from missing lessons and as such holiday request during term time.

Year Groups	Attendance from January to February
EYFS	95.9%
Year 1	88.8%
Year 2	87.8%
Year 3	91.2%
Year 4	95.2%
Year 5	92.3%
Year 6	93.4%

Attendance Percentage	Number of sessions missed	Equivalent number of days missed	Equivalent number of weeks missed	Equivalent number of lessons missed
100%	0	0	0	0
95%	19	9 ½	2	48
90%	38	19	4	95
85%	57	28 ½	6	143
80%	76	38	8	190
75%	95	47 ½	9 ½	238
70%	114	57	11 ½	285

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Office Messages



Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

Please remember to keep the office up to date with any changes to addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses. The office have had a new phone system installed over the summer break. When leaving a pupil absence voicemail, you need to confirm your message by pressing # and 0.



Please can we remind parents/carers that dogs **are not** to be brought onto school grounds, either on a lead or being held. Our priority is the safety of its children, staff and parents/carers so we thank you in advance for your understanding. The only exception to this is if the dog is a registered working guide dog.

GET INVOLVED

Before and After School Clubs

As you will be aware, we offer a Breakfast Club every day from 07:30 which is payable during term time only. There are some spaces available so if you would like to book a place or have any questions please contact the school office.

We also have external club providers who run lunchtime and after school clubs. Please visit our website for further information on how to book a place with the provider directly.

Diary Dates

- Parents' Evening – Wednesday 23rd February and Thursday 24th February
- LGBTQ+ Month - February
- World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March 2022
- Red Nose Day – Friday 18th March 2022
- PTA Mothers Day Gift Shop- Date TBC
- Thursday 9th June 2022 School photo day – Class photos

Believe and Achieve



Terms dates 2021/2022



Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

TERM DATES 2021/2022	
AUTUMN TERM	
Term begins	Friday 27 August 2021
Summer Bank Holiday	Monday 30 August 2021
Term ends	Friday 15 October 2021
Half term	Monday 18 October – Friday 22 October 2021
Term Begins	Monday 25 October 2021
Terms ends	Friday 17 December 2021
SPRING TERM	
Term begins	Wednesday 5 January 2022
Term ends	Friday 11 February 2022
Half term 2021	Monday 14 February 2022 – Friday 18 February 2022
Term begins	Monday 21 February 2022
Term ends	Friday 8 April 2022
SUMMER TERM	
Term begins	Monday 25 April 2022
May Day	Monday 2 May 2022
Term ends	Friday 27 May 2022
Half term	Monday 30 May 2022 – Friday 3 June 2022
Term begins	Monday 6 June 2022
Term ends	Wednesday 13 July 2022
TEACHER TRAINING DAYS (School closed to children)	
Wednesday 25 August 2021	
Thursday 26 August 2021	
Tuesday 4 January 2022	

Believe and Achieve