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Mrs Goodfellow and the Governors would like to welcome everyone back to Riverside Primary Academy for the start of a new half term. We hope that all of the children have had a wonderful time celebrating Hallowe'en and are looking forward to Bonfire night! Some parents were disappointed that we did not repeat the sleepover that was extremely successful last year, but we are planning an Easter sleepover with lots of fabulous activities, so look out for details next term. As we draw nearer to Christmas there are lots of planned activities happening in and around school so please come along and join us whenever you can. The children are ALWAYS more enthusiastic when their adults are in school. What do you all think of the developments happening in the outdoor learning areas? We feel things are starting to take shape. We hope, weather permitting, that everything will be complete by the end of Spring term next year. We will again be asking for volunteers and have listened to the feedback from parents regarding notice time for work and childcare issues so we will endeavour to accommodate as many as we can in order to allow more people to get involved.

HELP NEEDED!

Our Breakfast Club and Teatime Club would like to ask anyone, if you are having a clear out before Christmas and come across any games (in good condition), would you be willing to donate them to school? If so, please feel free to leave them at Main Reception. Any donations are greatly appreciated!

Get Involved...

We are considering starting up a community group aimed at involving residents in our school life. This will be open to anyone but is aimed at encouraging some of our older community members to remain active members of society. If you would be interested in attending or even helping with the start-up, please leave contact details at school and one of our governors will get in touch.

It's much better...

The target for attendance set by the governors for last year (2017/18) was **96.4%**. The actual attendance figure was **96.3%** So we just missed our target.

The whole school attendance figure for this year to date is **96.8%** which is just above target. We hope we can work with all our parents/carers to improve this further and for this trend to continue in the future.

Governors have been assessing pupil attendance and would like to remind you that it is an important aspect of maximising your child's learning potential. Therefore, any child with attendance below 96% will be monitored closely. If you think you may have a situation which will be detrimental to your child's attendance, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment to discuss how we may be able to help you.

Christmas Fair...

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated, raffle prizes, tombola prizes, Christmas jumpers – of which we still need more – and has volunteered to come in and help on the day.

We are still accepting donations and would ask that these could be brought to school as soon as possible.

Harvest Festival...

As you may be aware, donations brought into school will be given to The People's Kitchen. Thank you to everyone who made a contribution, we had more than in previous years. The organisation is grateful for everything they receive. If you wish to get involved further with this charity, you can contact them directly or visit their website:

<http://www.peopleskitchen.co.uk/>

0191 2220699

November 2018

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--|---|-----------|----------|--|----------|--------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13  | 14 | 15 | 16  | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23  | 24 | 25 |
| 26  | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

Our new Dates for your Diary calendar is designed for you to use at home. Why not remind yourself when your child's project is due or when their next school trip is? We hope this helps you to keep track of the school events throughout the year! If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter please visit the school website or social media pages and add your comments.

Dates to note:

Tuesday 13th November
Friday 16th November
Friday 23rd November
Monday 26th November

Flu vaccinations Reception to Year 6
Children in Need – wear spots for school
School Christmas Fair
Angels of the North singing event at the Sage, Gateshead



A MASSIVE THANK YOU...

We cannot say thank you enough to the volunteers who came to school to help develop our outdoor learning areas. Everyone worked really hard and even enjoyed themselves!



Thank you to...

ALL of the Parents and Carers who came to help!

We also would like to thank the following businesses who donated materials for our projects –

Beverley Williams and Edward Calder of Buildbase, Team Valley

Jill Frazer and the team at GWK Woodshed, Sacriston

Peter Dean (parent) of Ceramic Tile Distributors

Alex Dewhurst (parent) of Dunston DIY Centre



Come and look at our display in the hall next time you are in school!

An invitation from Barnardos...

Barnardos has a parenting drop-in for anyone to attend. The next session takes place on Thursday 6th December (11am – 1pm) at Barnardos on Bewick Road and then the first Thursday of every month thereafter. This is a free and friendly option at a town centre location. Are any parents struggling with their child's behaviour? Parents can call in for advice on parenting strategies and to find out about other types of support available, including group parenting programmes. No need for an appointment and free refreshments will be provided. You can contact Barnardos directly on telephone: 0191 478 4667

Important information...

Health and Safety in our school.

We have been asked by our health and safety advisors to remind parents that school begins at 9am and ends at 3.20pm at Riverside Primary Academy. At the beginning of the school day pupils are invited into school by members of staff and at the end of the day, handed back to a parent/carer. Pupils who attend breakfast and/or teatime club are supervised by staff whilst in these clubs. Outside of these times, parents are responsible for supervising their children on school premises.

We therefore ask that children **DO NOT** ride scooters or bikes in the yard or on the field, they must be pushed to the appropriate storage area, they **DO NOT** play football in the yard before and after the times specified above. These activities pose a serious risk of injury in a busy playground. We would greatly appreciate your support in this matter.

Parking

Can we please remind parents to be aware of where they park when dropping off and picking up their children, especially with the current roadworks on Wellington Road. We are still regularly receiving complaints from local residents whose access has been restricted.

Jewellery

Please remember that children are not allowed to wear jewellery for school as this poses a risk to their safety and may also result in them missing opportunities to fully engage in school activities. Watches, but NOT smart watches, are allowed. Unfortunately, school cannot be responsible for any loss or damage of valuables.

Social Media/Privacy

Please be sensitive to other parents/carers and staff who DO NOT want videos & images of their children or themselves to appear on any online platform. School policy regarding this is available on:
<http://riversideprimaryacademy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Privacy-Notice-May-2018-approved-1.pdf>
<http://riversideprimaryacademy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Data-Protection-Policy-confirmed-May-2018.pdf>

Pupil of the Week

Congratulations to our recipients for October! Keep up the good work everyone.

Skylar Vo; Penelope Rak; Logan Hepple
– Rec A

Holly Creed; Ada Wong; Amelia Pakula
– Rec B

Rhian Taylor; Chaarvi Gowda; Blake Dean – Y1

Skye Dring; Jack Briggs; David Coleman
– Y1/2

Leen Nojoun; Dhvani Achar – Y2

Whole class; Casey Crichton; Joshua Caulfield – Y3

Abdulah Alsabhi; Ellie Johnson; Whole class – Y4

Jodi Garnett; Marley Elrick; Thomas Elliott – Y5

Faye Evans; Sasha Morris; Demi-Leigh Jobling – Y6

And to Ibrahim Al-Hafidh for receiving the Head Teacher's Award for Perspective Drawing

Finally...

If your child takes part in any activities outside of school e.g. football, dance, drama etc., we would love to share their experiences with everyone. This is also celebrated every Friday in Praise Assembly. The children are encouraged to bring certificates/awards, etc. Feel free to leave a message at the office and we will celebrate it on the next newsletter!