



# RIVERBRIDGE REVIEW

Autumn Term

Week 5

4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Yesterday was an exciting day at Riverbridge as the School Council elections took place. Miss Hall arranged for the voting to happen the same way that it would do at a General or Local election. I saw first-hand how well the children engaged with the process and enjoyed their time in the voting booths. Democracy is a fundamental value and it was positive to see the understating that was shown during the process. The winners were announced in the assemblies this morning and I will offer my admiration to all who stood and congratulations to those that came first. I am sure that they will do themselves, and the school, proud.

Next week will see lots of opportunities for the children to think about themselves and others and also explore different aspects of the curriculum.

Firstly, we will be taking part in Feeling Good Week and have an opportunity to reflect on what helps us to feel positive about ourselves and what we can do to help us manage our emotions well.

The annual Harvest celebrations also take place next week and children will have an opportunity to be thankful for what they have whilst also thinking about others, too. Thank you in advance for the donations of food items that will be shared with Manna. These will be very gratefully received.

Finally, we will be thinking about further afield, as we take part in 'Space Week 2024'. I am sure that there will be lots to talk about in next week's Review.



**Councillor Elections**



**Year 5 School Council**



**RBT's giant yellow colour monster**

There have been a number of reports into school about confrontations between motorists outside of Park Avenue this week. We have been made aware of inconsiderate parking and aggressive driving which has resulted in verbal arguments. In both instances, we have recommended that if parents feel uncomfortable about an altercation that the police be called. Whilst we understand we have a duty of care to ensure the safety of everyone who comes onto the school site, our primary aim must be to ensure the safety and education of the children. If there are adults within the wider local community that are unable to manage their emotions in a reasoned way, perhaps speaking to the police might help. The events of this week are disappointing to hear and I am ever hopeful that I will not need to write about this again over the course of the academic year. Thank you for your help and understanding here.

Lyn and Jane would like to thank all who attended our MacMillan coffee morning last week. We collected an amazing £115 to donate to the charity. It was also a lovely opportunity for Jane and Lyn to meet our new parents to chat and get to know each other. Thank you to all the staff and parents who donated cakes.

### **Working Together**

**Reception**

The children in RBT painting a giant yellow colour monster who represents 'happy!' as shown on the first page. The children have been focusing on a different feeling each day!

### **Playtime – Change of Shoes**

**Year 2 - 6**

While the weather remains nice the field will be open at playtime to be used by those children who have brought a change of shoes. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

### **Early Reading Parent Talk**

**Reception & Year 1**

Parents/carers of children in Reception and Year 1 are invited to attend an information talk on early reading at Riverbridge. This will be an opportunity to learn more about how your child is taught to read at school and strategies to use at home. There will be a choice of two sessions: - 2:30pm or 6pm, on Tuesday 15th October. Both sessions will take place in the hall at Park Avenue base.

### **Community Safety Survey**

**Whole School**

In-Game Chats are a massive online safety focus with many different platforms having some form of chat feature. In-Game Chats are not necessarily a bad thing however they can cause some concern about what the children are saying or typing and what others are responding with. The attached article at the end of the Newsletter offers further information about In-Game Chats and parental advice about these.

### **Harvest Festival Donation**

**Whole School**

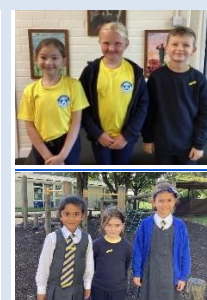
We will be holding a food collection for Manna Food Bank next week. If you have any tinned and non-perishable items you are able to donate (a list is attached of those items in desperate need), please send these to school from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Any and all donations are much appreciated.

### **Council Elections**

**Whole School**



This week, the children have had the opportunity to take part in a realistic election process in order to allocate a School Councillor to represent their class. They had a great time and enjoyed the experience of voting more formally. Successful candidates have been announced in today's celebration assembly and a list is attached to the end of the Newsletter. Thank you to all the children for taking part in. Who knows, perhaps there is an aspiring Prime Minister waiting in the wings!



### **Vacancies**

**Whole School**

#### **Riverbridge Primary School in Staines is recruiting:**

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic and creative Teaching Assistant with a 'can do' attitude who is passionate about making a difference, to join our friendly, committed, hardworking team. For more information please see: <https://www.eteach.com/careers/riverbridgeprimary/job/teaching-assistant-1445447>

We are looking to appoint an Early Years Teaching Assistant with a Level 3 qualification in Childcare to join our friendly, committed, hardworking team in our Nursery. For more information please see: <https://www.eteach.com/careers/riverbridgeprimary/job/teaching-assistant-1445460>

#### **The Echelford Primary School is recruiting:**

We are looking for a wrap-around care manager to join our team. Are you highly motivated, proactive, flexible and reliable? We are looking to appoint a talented individual who can assist in providing a stimulating, creative and caring environment for children within the classroom as well as those attending the after school club. The right candidate will be joining a strong, professional team of enthusiastic staff who will work alongside you in a supportive and constructive way. For more information please visit - <https://www.eteach.com/job/wrap-around-care-manager-1446281>

We are looking for a deputy wrap around care manager to join our team. Are you highly motivated, proactive, flexible and reliable? We are looking to appoint a talented individual who can assist in providing a stimulating, creative and caring environment for children within the classroom as well as those attending the after school club. The right candidate will be joining a strong, professional team of enthusiastic staff who

will work alongside you in a supportive and constructive way. For more information please visit - <https://www.eteach.com/job/deputy-wrap-around-care-manager-1446274>

**PTA**

**Whole School**

Riverbridge PTA is our school's fundraising community.  
Everyone's welcome to get involved.



**PTA**  
FRIENDS OF RIVERBRIDGE

### **Buy your tickets for the Riverbridge Welcome Back Party!**

Tickets are selling fast for the Riverbridge Welcome Back Party. Less than a third of tickets are left, so if you want to join us for fun and fireworks on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October, from 5pm to 7.30pm, please book now to avoid disappointment.

There will be toys, games, food, a bar and entertainment from DISCOZ.COM. The highlight of the evening will be a fantastic professional firework display! Tickets are £6 each for children and adults. You can order your tickets at [www.pta-events.co.uk/riverbridge](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/riverbridge)

### **Get swapping at our card trading station**

A brand new feature at this year's Welcome Back Party will be a Card Trading Station, where children can bring Pokemon and Football cards and swap them with others.

There will also be a limited number of Pokemon beginner packs available to buy on the day. Come along to the Music Room between 5pm and 6pm, to get swapping! Parents should come along with their children to help supervise.

### **Can you help out at the Welcome Back Party?**

The Welcome Back Party is organised and run by parent volunteers, so if you can spare any time to help out on the day with setting up, clearing away or being on a stall, we would appreciate any help.

You MUST already be a ticket holder for the event in order to volunteer. If you can help out with a 30 minute slot, please sign up at <https://volunteersignup.org/CD9A4>

We're also looking for brilliant bakers to donate cakes and biscuits for our cake stall. If you can donate any delicious creations, please drop them off at either office at KGB or PAB on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October.

Stay connected with Riverbridge PTA on Facebook at

[www.facebook.com/groups/RiverbridgePrimarySchoolPTA](http://www.facebook.com/groups/RiverbridgePrimarySchoolPTA) or get in touch at [pta.riverbridge@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk](mailto:pta.riverbridge@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk)



**Gold Leaves**

**Whole School**

The children below can be rightly proud of the efforts that they have made over the course of the week. I am sure that they will keep up the great work next week, too!

Alex J	Rishi K	Esmai-Rose C
Ahmed-Sultan BG	Tommy M	Theo G
Andre GS	Jesse L	Vladimir P
Lucas D	Reggie S	Kawthar A
Mariia K	Thansiha S	Hareshna K
Cruz H	Misha H	Jaydn D
Rico CS	Wren C	Maghizhini E
Mayank S	Aya HJ	Zac H
Lotta C	Thomas W	Teddy R
Evan D	Anika M	Zofia B
Jenson R	Benjamin SE	Lincoln OF
Alexandru M	Theo M (3L)	Oscar N
Romy K	Kaven P	Annika H
Poppy H	Ayla M	Belinda SP



Arabella S  
Mimi M  
Yichen P  
Jasper Y

Bianca DG  
Laylah-Anne E  
Samuel O  
Kallum G

Katie N  
Hussain H  
Kanishka S

## Rainbow Awards

## Nursery

Well done to all the children in Hedgehogs and Rabbits who have had a successful week.  
Keep it up!

Isla M

Rami S

Cash H

Xingchen P

## House Competition

## Whole School

There is another House competition taking place next week so the totals will be changing soon.  
The scores currently remain the same:



**10  
Points**



**15  
Points**



**20  
Points**

## Words of Wisdom

## Whole School

In the weekly assemblies this year, we are finding out about a range of different people from all over the world. We will find out about their achievements and how they have overcome challenges or demonstrated any of our 8 Great Ways to Being Our Best.

### **Graça Machel Politician and campaigner**



During this week's assembly, we found out about an important figure in African politics.

Graça Machel was born in Mozambique weeks before her father died. At this time, the majority of children in the country did not have access to an education.

Graça was able to receive a scholarship to a school and never looked back. She became the Minister for Education and helped ensure over a million extra children received schooling.

She later became the First Lady of Mozambique and, after marrying Nelson Mandela, became the First Lady of South Africa as well.

We talked through her 'Words of Wisdom' which encouraged everyone to think about the difference that can be made when you put your mind to it:

*'Ask yourself what you can do to make a difference, and then take that action, no matter how large or how small.'*

Have a great weekend.

**Paul Grimwood**

**Headteacher**

**Dates for the diary...**

**Autumn Term 2024**

Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception 2025 Open Day Tour
w/c 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival – donations to class
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception 2025 Open Day Tour
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception 2025 Open Day Tour
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception 2025 Open Day Tour
<b>Tues 15<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Reception &amp; Year 1 Early Reading Parent Talk – 2.30pm or 6pm at PAB</b>
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> October	PTA Welcome Back Party

**Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024**

**Autumn Half Term**

Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Inset day 3
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Children return to school
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception 2025 Open Day Tour
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception 2025 Open Day Tour
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> November	PTA AGM - more details to follow
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception 2025 Open Day Tour
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> November – Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Bristol Residential Year 6 – <a href="#">link to the letter here</a>
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> November	PTA Panto - more details to follow
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Enrichment Clubs end for Year 1 - 6
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term for children: 1.20pm KGB, 1.30pm PAB, 1.40pm Nursery
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> December	No After School Club

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec – Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025**

**Christmas Holiday**

**Spring Term 2025**

Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Children return to school
<b>Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Feb – Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2025</b>	<b>Spring Half Term</b>
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Children return to school
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> April	End of term for children: 1.20pm KGB, 1.30pm PAB, 1.40pm Nursery
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> April	No After School Club

**Mon 7<sup>th</sup> April – Mon 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025**

**Easter Holidays**

**Summer Term 2025**

Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Children return to school
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Spring Bank Holiday

**Mon 26<sup>th</sup> May – Fri 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025****Summer Half Term**

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Children return to school

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> July

End of term for children: 1.20pm KGB, 1.30pm PAB, 1.40pm Nursery

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> July

No After School Club

Mon 21<sup>st</sup> July

Inset day 4

Tues 22<sup>rd</sup> July

Inset day 5

## School Council 2024-25

Class	School Councillor <i>(Receives badge)</i>	Deputy (In case of absence)
1R	<b>Imogen G</b>	Isobel S
1A	<b>Medha I</b>	Henry G
1C	<b>Sarah M</b>	Finlay M
2H	<b>Zac H</b>	Bianca U
2C	<b>Wren C</b>	Cristina B
2P	<b>Sriyan R</b>	Livia P
3L	<b>Amelia B</b>	Lennon M
3BH	<b>Daisy L</b>	Aviran T
3H	<b>Henry B</b>	Wahida Z
4P	<b>Ayla M</b>	Ava F
4VR	<b>George E</b>	Bertie L
4S	<b>Eeshan P</b>	Logan R
5T	<b>Fawz A</b>	Ismael S-H
5W	<b>Harry S</b>	Dexter S
5C	<b>Caelan T</b>	Willow S
6I	<b>Dylan S</b>	Ella-Rose Y
6K	<b>David R</b>	Pearl L
6G	<b>Jetson L</b>	Surabhi R



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

## DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

## CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

## DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

## BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

## POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

## COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

### REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

### CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

### COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College





## SHOPPING LIST

Please note we can only take non-perishable, in-date items and do not give out baby formula.

Instant coffee  
Tins of cold meat – ham, corned beef, chicken, SPAM, etc.  
Tinned hot meals – curry, chilli, hot dogs, etc.  
Tinned vegetables  
Tinned fruit  
Tinned salmon, mackerel, etc. (please no tuna)  
Boxes of porridge sachets  
Crackers  
Cereal bars/Breakfast bars  
Rice, especially 500g bags  
Sugar, especially small bags 500g  
Spreads – Jam, Choc. Spread, Peanut Butter etc.  
Tinned Soup and Cup a Soup  
Jars of Pasta Sauce  
Biscuits  
Tinned rice pudding  
Tinned or sachets of custard  
Long life juice cartons – full-sized  
Long life semi-skimmed milk - green  
Shampoo  
Shower gel  
Toilet roll  
Liquid hand wash  
Deodorant  
Toothpaste  
Washing up liquid  
Kitchen roll  
Laundry pods/liquid

We currently have very good stocks of Baked Beans, Dried Pasta, Tinned Tuna, Cereal, Tinned Pulses and Tinned Tomatoes



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Laundry pods/liquid

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# GIRLS FOOTBALL



In partnership with



## WHAT?

Fun football for Girls of all abilities!  
A BRILLIANT  
INTRODUCTION TO  
THE BEAUTIFUL GAME  
with FA qualified coaches.



## WHERE?

3G Pitch  
ABBEY  
RANGERS FC  
Addlestone  
KT15 2QH



## WHEN?

Every Saturday  
10.30am - 11.30am  
\*First Session  
7<sup>th</sup> September

## AGE?

School  
Year R to Year 4



# Have Fun!

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