



# RIVERBRIDGE REVIEW

Spring term

Week 2

13<sup>th</sup> January 2017

The new school lunch system has become more settled this week. The children are now more aware of the choices that they are faced with and the lunchtime staff are managing the changes well. I have to say a big thank you to the whole catering team on both bases. Dealing with new management is never easy but they have adapted really well. I have also been impressed by the standard of food too. So much so that I have had a hearty school lunch every day since the beginning of term. I am in danger of needing a larger belt!

The school clubs have started this week and it has been good to see some new activities being offered to the children. I was particularly interested to see how indoor archery/ fencing would work in the PAB hall. The children seem to be enjoying these different opportunities and I am grateful to all the staff who have given up their time to organise and run these clubs. I know that Miss Moxon and the school office are investing time and energy into arranging these and, once again, they deserve our thanks.

I have noticed a number of children bringing in an interesting variety of toys / objects from home to use and play with at lunchtime. It is good when children can amuse themselves in such a way however experience tells me that this doesn't last for long before things get lost or children squabble over things. Can I ask that you remind your children not to bring such toys into school. We are fortunate to have a lot of playground equipment which does a good job of keeping the children occupied.

Next week will see the introduction of a new project at Riverbridge. Mrs. Quinn, the Leadership Consultant that works closely with the school will be talking about developing the use of Story Sacks at the Knowle Green base. Some of you may have even seen her drumming up interest this morning by handing out leaflets. Story Sacks are a great way to encourage reading and I know that the school will really benefit from this addition. This will only work if parents volunteer to help create the sacks. I know that you are an enthusiastic bunch and I hope to see as many of you as possible at some point during these sessions next Wednesday.

## Attendance

The start of the Spring term is often a tricky one with regards to attendance as this is the term where children often fall ill and need to take time off school. There is sometimes confusion around whether you should send your child into school or not. As a general rule, if a child has a slight cold or a sniffle, please send them in – the office staff are well trained in spotting when a child needs to go home or will cope with the school day. If your child has a sickness bug (vomiting and diarrhea) then they need to be off school for 48 hours as this will allow them time to recover sufficiently.

The school is aware that children can often be sick through eating too much food, getting overly excited over something or even brushing their teeth too vigorously! This sickness is treated differently and the 48 hour rule would not apply here.

Despite the odd sickness bug – our attendance for the academic year is currently 96.4%

This is positive and I hope to see it continue for the rest of the year!

Thank you!

## **School Dinners**

All parents have received an email with information on how to pay dinner money along with the amount to pay.

Please note that the online payment system will only show the dinner money for meals already taken e.g. if you check online on a Monday the dinner money for the rest of that week will not be included in the amount owing. Please therefore enter manually the weekly amount of £11.00 or more if you wish to pay monthly or half termly. For this half term the total cost of dinners will be £61.60.

If your child currently has packed lunches but would now like to swap to school dinners please let the school office know and also take the opportunity to discuss the menu choices with your child. As before, a child can swap to packed lunches only at half term breaks.

## **Data Collection sheets**

We will be shortly sending out Data Collection sheets to parents in the Nursery and Reception. These sheets contain the information which we hold for your child. Please check the information, correct and /or complete any missing details and return it to the school office as soon as possible. We will then update our records accordingly. We will be sending out sheets for the rest of the year groups in due course.

## **Year 1 Phonics Information Evening**

Phonics is a key part of children's ability to learn to read. This is taught across many year groups with a key focus in Key Stage 1. During the summer, the Year 1 children will undertake the annual Phonics Screening Test. This is an important time and something that the Year 1 staff are working hard preparing the children for.

To help the children with this event, the Year 1 staff have arranged two information meetings where parents will be able to get a greater understanding of what the teaching of phonics entails, what the tests will consist of and how the children can best be supported.

These meetings are for all Year 1 parents and also for the parents of any of the children in Year 2 who will need to retake the test this year. These meetings are planned for Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February at both 2.30pm and 6.00pm.

I look forward to seeing you there

## **New Reception Intake**

We held the final Open Morning of the academic year on Tuesday and Mrs. Talkington and I were pleased to be able to show off the school to those that attended.

As a reminder to all parents, the deadline for applications for Reception in September 2017 is Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January (this weekend!).

## **Curriculum Overviews**

I am aware that these documents were sent out to you last Friday. These are an important way for us to communicate with you about the learning that is taking place in school. I hope that these will take pride of place on your fridges / notice boards so that you can keep a track of what your children are learning in school and how you can support them too.

## **Clubs**

The children have enjoyed the Enrichment clubs that have started this week. If you have not yet done so please pay online. Miss Cudmore has asked if there are any more children from Years 3 to 6 that would like to join choir? If so please let the office know. All other clubs are full for this term.

## **Public Health England dental health checks for 5 year old children**

As part of a Government Health initiative dental checks have been planned for some 5 year olds across England. Letters will be sent home today to our 5 year old children who have been selected. The check will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> within school so please return the permission slip to the school office on Monday 16th January.

## A Time to Play...

This activity is probably the wrong time of year but...

This is an opportunity to play the game, **'I'm going to the seaside...'**

In this game, the rule is you can only take something to the seaside if it begins with the letter 's'.

Take turns – 'I'm going to the seaside and I'm going to take my scooter'... 'I'm going to the seaside and I'm going to take my socks'... etc.

Keep going until you run out of ideas or someone makes a mistake, then change the letter if you want to play again.

## Gold Leaves

There has been a steady stream of gold leaves this week for a variety of sensible reasons. It was my pleasure to share these with the children at PAB this morning. This week's roll of honour is:

Jake Ford	Emma Robinson	Noah Tan
Jay Cooper	Rachel Jimenez	Kasper Wood
George Dotson	Richie Stevens	Olivia Sowter-Hughes
Samuel Armsby	Rory Graham	Kaarmukhil Sivaraman
Abigail Walls	Sia Singh	Sofia Hasan
Annabelle Bowder	Riley Cato-Smartt	Layla Pugh
Scarlett Rainbow	Elissa Panton-Jones	Bethany Cleaver
Owen Whitworth	Daisy Sansom	Phoebe McBirnie
Jessica Cleaver	Harvey Carter	Eesah Sheikh
Oliver Lay	Aleeza Shakeel	Charlotte Dempsey
Leah Bancroft	Riley Eastley	Jomana Mohamed
Maddie Thomson	Dafi Thomas	Aditya Vinod
Gemma Thomson	Phoebe Robson	Ela Erden
		Isabelle Allen

Have a lovely weekend

**Paul Grimwood**  
**Headteacher**

## Dates for the diary...

### SPRING TERM 2017

Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Deadline for applications for Primary school places starting Sept 2017
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Swimming Lessons resume
Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Nursery, Reception Year 1 Story Sack Project Information meeting 9-9.25am, 2.15-2.50pm or 6-6.25pm.
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	FaceUp Theatre Year 2
Weds 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	FaceUp Theatre Reception and Year 1
Tues 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Stay, Play & Learn session for Reception parents 9.00
Weds 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Stay, Play & Learn session for Reception parents 9.00
<b>Weds 1<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Phonics Information meetings 2.30pm or 6.00pm.</b>
Weds 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Stay, Play & Learn session for Reception parents 9.00
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	End of Key Stage 2 Assessments Parents Meeting 2:15-2:45 and 6:30-7:00

Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Feb INSET DAY 2

**Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Feb - Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Feb Half Term**

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Feb Living Eggs Nursery and Reception  
Wk 27<sup>th</sup> Feb English Curriculum Week  
Weds 8<sup>th</sup>- Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Mar Year 5 Residential to PGL  
Wk Beg 6<sup>th</sup> Mar Stay, Play & Learn sessions for Nursery parents times TBC  
Mon 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Mar Pedals Yr 2  
Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Mar Parent Consultations 1.30 – 5.00pm  
Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> Mar Parent Consultations 5.00 – 8.00pm  
Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Mar Yr 1 visit The Living Rainforest  
Mon 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Mar Bikeability Level 1 Yr 5  
Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar Reception Visit Woolley Firs  
Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar Reception Visit Woolley Firs  
Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Mar Clubs finish  
Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Mar FACT Day Year 5  
Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Mar Yr 2 visit RHS Garden Wisley  
Weds 29<sup>th</sup> Mar Music Festival Year 2 further details to follow  
Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> Mar Music Festival Year 2 further details to follow  
Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Mar End of term 1.30pm KGB 1.45pm Nursery 1.40pm PAB

**SUMMER TERM 2017**

Tues 18<sup>th</sup> April Children and staff return to school  
Wk beg 24<sup>th</sup> April Special Grown Up Assembly Day TBC  
Mon 24<sup>th</sup> April Clubs begin  
Wk beg 8<sup>th</sup> May End of KS2 Assessments  
Thurs 18<sup>th</sup>–Fri 19<sup>th</sup> May Year 4 Residential Bushcraft

**Mon 29<sup>th</sup> May – Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> June Half Term**

Mon 5<sup>th</sup> June Children and staff return to school  
Tues 6<sup>th</sup> June Stay, Play & Learn session for Reception parents 9.00  
Weds 7<sup>th</sup> June Stay, Play & Learn session for Reception parents 9.00  
Wk beg 12<sup>th</sup> June Wider Curriculum Week  
Year 6 Residential Trip Ultimate Adventure Centre Bideford  
Wk beg 26<sup>th</sup> June Stay, Play & Learn sessions for Nursery parents times TBC  
June 20<sup>th</sup> June  
Weds 21<sup>st</sup> June Sports Day (Yrs R – 6)  
Wk beg 26<sup>th</sup> June Year 6 Bikeability (TBC)  
Weds 28<sup>th</sup> June Sports Day (Nursery)  
Tues 4<sup>th</sup> July Move Up Day (TBC)  
Fri 7<sup>th</sup> July Clubs finish  
Tues 11<sup>th</sup> July Year 6 Leavers' Performance  
Mon 17<sup>th</sup> July Year 6 Leavers' Party  
Tues 18<sup>th</sup> July End of term for children 1.30pm KGB 1.45pm Nursery 1.40pm PAB  
Weds 19<sup>th</sup> July INSET DAY 3  
Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> July INSET DAY 4  
Fri 21<sup>st</sup> July INSET DAY 5