



# RIVERBRIDGE REVIEW

Autumn Term

Week 1

4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

It has been good to welcome the children back to school after the summer holidays and the Covid19 lockdown. I have been so impressed with how quickly and seamlessly they have settled into their new routines. The children at Riverbridge are remarkably resilient and I am really proud of them. I am sure that this will be a positive year for us all!



Having lived the children's return to school for a few days, we have been reflecting on the plans and what needs to change. One amendment to the plan is that from Monday onwards we are allowing children to bring in a book bag or a small rucksack to carry their books and water bottle etc. This needs to be suitable to stay with the children all day either on the back of a chair or tucked underneath. Please don't bring in a huge bag!

There is a letter attached to this Review regarding reading books – can I ask you all to double check the details. Reading is so important and we really do need children to be reading daily.



It has been positive to be able to catch up with some parents face to face in the playground and outside the front of the school. We pride ourselves in building positive relationships with our parents and we are trying to think of ways to maintain this. I have answered a number of questions and sometimes have been asked the same question repeatedly which helps to highlight what we need to be clearer on in our communications. All questions are useful and will help us to reflect even more on what needs to change to make things better. Please do feel free to send these questions into the school office and we will collate a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) sheet for all parents to have sight of.

Next week, we will welcome the new Nursery and Reception children into school. Both teams have been working tirelessly to ensure that these learning environments are as enriching as possible and that the experiences for the children will be favourable ones. I look forward to seeing them all and welcoming more children and parents into the Riverbridge family.

Finally, thank you for your patience and understanding in helping us to reopen the school to all children. There are lots of logistical challenges to be met and your support in meeting these is much appreciated!

## Traffic consultation

Whole School

Whilst this plan is not directly adjacent to the school we have been asked to highlight the link to a suggested traffic plan.

<https://surreycovidnortheast.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/gresham-road-staines-footpath-widening-and-20-mph-zone-permanent-plans/details>

## PE timetable

Whole School

As you will be aware from last week's Review we would like the children to come into school in PE kit on the days that they have PE. The table below gives details of each year group's days.

Monday	1H, Year 2 and Year 5
Tuesday	Year 4
Wednesday	1B
Thursday	Year 6
Friday	1L Year 3

## Medical

Whole School

As we welcome the children back to school, we are also entering the season of normal childhood illnesses.

If your child is unwell, you need to inform us by 9.15am at the latest. The easiest way to do this is to complete the online absence form <https://www.riverbridgeprimary.co.uk/form/?pid=111&form=18>

Please give as much information as possible with regards to your child's symptoms. As part of our ongoing risk assessment it is vital that we record any illnesses as fully as possible. If we don't have enough information it is likely that we will need to call you for clarification. If you have any questions regarding this please do email the office and we will be happy to advise.

## Packed Lunches

Whole School

Having spent a lot of time in the PAB hall at lunchtime this week, there are a couple of things to note. I have noticed that a lot of the packed lunches are huge and there is a lot of food that is going uneaten. I know that appetites and eating habits have changed over lockdown and snacking has become a bit of a habit for some. It might be worth considering the volume of food that is sent into school and scaling it back.

## Parking

Whole School

This is always an issue and one to flag up again. In the current Covid 19 climate, we are likely to have some crowds forming at drop off and pick up times. It is advisable for parents to consider a 'park and stride' approach, where you park a little further away from school and walk the rest. This will avoid undue traffic coming down Park Road in particular. Thursday morning was a little hectic but Friday was better. Thank you.

It is worth mentioning that the traffic in Park Avenue will invariably be more of an issue when the weather is rainy. Please still 'park and stride' but this time with umbrellas!

## Outdoor Learning

Year 1



In Year 1, the children have been exploring the new outdoor area and being very creative with the outside resources. They have been collaborating well with each other to make castles, bridges and even magical potions!"



## Home Learning updates

Whole School

It is likely that the children will have received home learning today. Class teachers will have explained the routines to the children and these will also be shared with you during the 'Virtual Curriculum Meeting' next week.

Next week will also be the time when we will establish plans for our 'blended approach' to learning at home and school for those that are unable to be in school. Please watch this space.

## School Dinners

Whole School

We hope the children have been enjoying the tasty and healthy selection of hot and cold school meals.

The children are offered a choice of hot vegetarian, non vegetarian options, deli, salad daily and choice of healthy puddings. The cost of the school lunch is £2.40 per day, £7.20 for the three days this week, £12 per week thereafter, £91.20 per term inclusive of the three days this week.

The children in Year Reception to Year 2 are eligible to universal free school dinners therefore, parents do not need to make any payments.

From Year 3 onwards all meals should be paid for unless you are eligible for benefits related free school meals. All payments for the school lunches need to be made via scopay (<https://www.scopay.com/login.html>). We do ask parents to please make payments at least a week in advance. If your child has packed lunch and would like to change to school dinners please email the school office. However, if your child has school dinners and would like to change to packed lunch the change needs to be made at the end of the half term.

The school lunch menu is available on the school website. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email the school office.

## PTA

Whole School

Welcome to the new term, from Riverbridge PTA - we are delighted to be back at school again!

It has been a year like no other so far - but with a bit of imagination, we are hoping to provide a full calendar of events for parents and the children to enjoy.



**PTA**  
FRIENDS OF RIVERBRIDGE

Our fundraising activities are an essential way of generating much needed funds for our school, but they also help us to build a strong school community. Despite the lockdown forcing us to cancel our events in the spring and summer, we still managed to raise over £12,000 towards new Chrome Books, classroom workshops, a contribution to each class for learning accessories and more, over the last school year.

We want to do even better this year and hope that we will have your support, as always.

Welcome to new families:

Our school is a great community and we would love to tell you all about what the PTA does and how you can get involved. Please join us for a virtual welcome on 15th September at 6.30pm.

Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76741829259?pwd=aGd4bnRtc0VqU3FPSWU4cVI6eHJCZz09> Meeting ID: 767 4182 9259 Passcode: 6qutgj

Please also follow our Facebook page as it is a great way to keep up to date with PTA events and make new friends. Fb: /groups/RiverbridgePrimarySchoolPTA

Face masks:

We are all getting used to wearing face masks but now you can help raise money for the school at the same time. We are finalising details for 'Riverbridge' face masks that you can buy for your children. There will be more information in next week's newsletter.

Join our first PTA meeting of the year:

We are meeting online on Thursday 17th September to start planning this term's events. Everyone is welcome so don't be shy - join us to share ideas, meet other parents and get involved in school life!

Advertise with us:

Did you know you can advertise on the PTA events website - reaching a community of over 600 families? If you are self-employed, a small business or part of a large organisation, please get in touch for more information: [pta.riverbridge@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk](mailto:pta.riverbridge@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk)

Have a great term back at Riverbridge!

## Surrey County Council – Free School Meals

Whole School

Benefits related free school meals can be provided to children if parents/guardians meet the eligibility criteria and receive certain benefits including Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance and Universal Credit.

If your financial circumstances have changed or if you think you may be eligible, please do complete the relevant form which can be found on the forms section of the Riverbridge website -

<https://www.riverbridgeprimary.co.uk/riverbridge-primary/forms>

## Gold Leaves

Whole School

It's been a short week but already I have been really impressed with the attitude the children have demonstrated over the past 3 days. They have settled into their learning really quickly and I am looking forward to this continuing over the course of the year.

Despite having only 2 days to reach gold, there were two children that managed to do just that! What a brilliant way to start the year, well done!

Riley-Jay K

Lyla G

## Rainbow Awards

Nursery

Well done to our existing Rabbits children who have come back to school with such a positive attitude to their learning. 1 child has even achieved a Rainbow reward, well done.

Matlida W

## House Competition

Whole School

The children have settled in well and have begun to collect green point in class. I know that they will look forward to earning points towards the House Cup when this begins in earnest next week.



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Points



000  
points



000  
Points

## 4 Core Skills / 8 Great Values

Whole School



Assemblies will, for the time being, be held 'virtually'. Whilst I am missing seeing all the children in person during the assemblies, I have been impressed with how well they have listened to what I have shared.

I have been stopped on many occasions by children to talk about the two assemblies so far and I look forward to seeing this continue.

This week was about **new beginnings** and the **courage** that children need to show when starting a new school year.

I am pleased to say they have done this brilliantly so far!

## Spotlight on

## Whole School

### Emotional Well-being and Mental Health

The following links and books offer an insight into anxiety and strategies to use to support your child.

#### NHS Self-Help Leaflet - Anxiety

<https://web.nrw.nhs.uk/selfhelp/leaflets/Anxiety%20A4%202016%20FINAL.pdf>

#### CAMHS recommended self-help support

<https://www.getselfhelp.co.uk//anxiety.htm>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/#breathing>



You and Your Anxious Child: Free Your Child from Fears and Worries and Create a Joyful Family Life by Anne Marie Albano

**Young Minds Parents line** - available to offer advice to anyone worried about a child or young person under 25 operating Mon-Fri from 9.30am to 4pm Tel: 0808 802 5544

**CYP Havens** - accessible, safe young person friendly places for support and advice alongside peers and supported by CAMHS staff

<https://www.sabp.nhs.uk/our-services/mental-health/safe-havens/SafeHavenEpsom>

Spelthorne - Leacroft Youth Centre, Raleigh Crescent Staines, TW18 4PB

Tuesday: 16.00-20.30

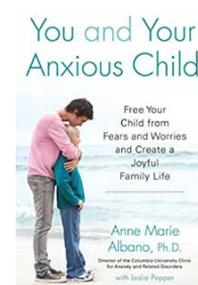
Saturday: 12.00-18.00

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

There will be some tired children I am sure – see you on Monday with recharged batteries!

**Paul Grimwood**

**Headteacher**



## Dates for the diary...

### Autumn Term 2020

Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Sept

Existing Hedgehogs return to Nursery

Weds 9<sup>th</sup> Sept

Summer born Reception children join 8.45am-1pm

Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> Sept

Spring born Reception children join 8.45am-1pm

Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Autumn born Reception children join 8.45am-1pm
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Reception full time 8.45am -3pm
Week commencing 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	New Rabbits date advised separately New Hedgehogs date advised separately
<b>Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>PTA New Parents Welcome Meeting -Virtual</b>
<b>Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>PTA meeting -Virtual</b>

<b>Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Oct-Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2020</b>	<b>Autumn Half Term</b>
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Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Children return to school
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	End of term for children: 1.20pm KGB, 1.40pm Nursery, 1.30pm PAB

<b>Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Dec-Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021</b>	<b>Christmas Holiday</b>
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Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2021	Children return to school
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Inset Day 2

<b>Mon 15<sup>th</sup> – Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021</b>	<b>Spring Half Term</b>
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Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> April	End of term for children: 1.20pm KGB, 1.40pm Nursery, 1.30pm PAB
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<b>Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> –Fri 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
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Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Children return to school
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Potential Polling Day

<b>Mon 31<sup>st</sup> May- Fri 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021</b>	<b>Summer Half Term</b>
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Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> July	End of term for children: 1.20pm KGB, 1.40pm Nursery, 1.30pm PAB
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Inset day 3
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Inset day 4
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Inset day 5



**Park Avenue Base:** Park Avenue, Staines upon Thames, Middlesex TW18 2EF  
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**Website:** www.riverbridgeprimary.co.uk

**Headteacher:** Mr P Grimwood BA (Hons); NPQH

**Executive Principal:** Mrs M E McCarthy MA; Ed.M

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

### Reading at Riverbridge

Dear parents/carers,

Early in the Spring term of 2020, we carried out an audit of our 'banded' reading books across the school. This allowed us to identify where we needed to replenish our book collection to ensure that our reading resources are up to date and appropriate for the children here at Riverbridge. We are pleased to share with you that we have been able to make a large purchase of books across the school and have adapted our reading processes along with this.

Children from Reception to Year 6 will receive a book over the next few weeks that is matched to their own word reading and comprehension (understanding) level. This will be carefully chosen after a thorough assessment carried out by their class teacher, using a new assessment system that is consistent across the school. For children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, this will also link closely to the phonic phase they are learning in class.

Many of you will be familiar with the colour banded system. This is the system that we will continue to be using however there have been many developments within this. There are a wider variety of genres, comprehension skills addressed and specific phonics skills focused on within the different bands meaning that they are aimed at children from Reception through to the time they leave Riverbridge in Year 6. This may mean that it may look as though your child is spending longer on a band, moving from a band that they may have been on when they were in the school in March or moving back to a band they have previously read. Please do not be concerned if this is the case. It is important that children are not rushed through the reading scheme but are reading books that are appropriate for the stage that they are at in their learning both in their comprehension and word reading. We encourage children to reread books, discuss them, read them with adults, be read to by others and enjoy their time reading both these 'banded' books and other books that they may have access to.

We are keen to ensure that children still have the opportunity to read regularly both in school and at home whilst also ensuring that we are keeping all members of the school community safe. The guidance from Public Health England is that books in school and libraries that are borrowed would need to be quarantined for 72 hours before being recirculated. To support us with this and to allow for books to be enjoyed further at home we are introducing the following procedures:

#### Reception and Year 1

Children will be asked to bring in their reading book and Reading Record on a Monday and a Thursday when they will also be sent home with a new book. They will put their reading book into a return box. At the end of the day they will then bring home their Reading Record and new book and the returned books will be put into quarantine for 72 hours.



## Years 2 to 6

Children in Years 2 to 6 will be expected to have their reading book and Reading Record (Year 2)/Planner (KS2) in school every day. If they need to return a book they will place this in a return box. At the end of the day this box will be put into quarantine for 72 hours and a new return box will be put out the next day. This will continue so that children can return books any day of the week however they are not expected to complete a book daily.

## Expectations for reading at home

Children are expected to read regularly at home with either an adult or older reading partner. This is recorded in their reading records or pupil planners. We have different expectations for reading based on a child's individual development. Children in Reception are expected to read at home daily with an adult and have this recorded in their reading record. From Years 1-6 children are expected to read with an adult at least 3 times a week and have this recorded in their reading record/planner. As children develop their love for reading we would encourage them to read independently, however it is still important that they have the opportunity to read with an adult to respond to questions about what they have read.

As well as reading the reading scheme books from school, we would always encourage children to read or be read other books that they have chosen to read from a library or book collection at home. These can also be written in a child's reading record as it is useful for us to see the types of books the children enjoy and build upon this in school. As we progress through the school year we are hoping to be able to encourage children to also take home a book from the school library to develop their love for books and reading.

If you have any questions about reading at Riverbridge please speak to your child's class teacher who will be happy to help. We look forward to working with you to support your children in becoming confident readers and develop a love for reading.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L Price



Miss C Heffernan

English Subject Leaders