

Dear River Bank parents and carers

We are now half way through the year and on the day that marks the meteorological first day of spring; it is typical of our weather that we are greeted by snow and severe weather warnings. Please know that in these conditions, we do everything possible to keep the school open so that pupils' education is not disrupted.

We celebrate world book day today and I would like to thank you all for making the effort to support your children with their costumes. We know that dressing up does not help provide a culture for reading for pleasure in the long term; but it does produce excitement and curiosity around reading that can act as a launchpad into good reading habits. You will be pleased to hear that the strategies we have put in place to support reading and reading for pleasure have had a significant impact on pupils' reading development since September. Research shows the best support we can get from parents is for you to read with your children every day at home – this will be the thing that has the most impact on your child's education and future success.

In order to continue to support our drive to get more pupils reading – we are asking parents to support the development of our library by making book donations. We are in need of **books in excellent condition suitable for children over five years old** and particularly need **non-fiction texts**. If you have books like this at home that you feel you could donate – please bring them in to the school office in a bag or box.

Sporting Success – Net/wall Games Competition

Our year two net/wall games team did really well at a competition held at Inspire on Wednesday 31st January. Well done to Asmaa, Azzahara, Aryan, Bartosz, Emma-Louise, Eshan, Kinston, Nikola, Sumaya and Zayd.

Easy Fund Raising.

We very much appreciate your support at our fund raising events that raise money to give our pupils the 'extras', that funding from government cannot provide, such as, extra books for our new library and playtime equipment. However, there is a very easy way you can do even more. You can collect free donations every time you shop for your weekly online shop, arranging your car insurance, updating your wardrobe and to booking your family holiday. Please see www.easyfundraising.org.uk for further the information.

Staff Training Days

The last two staff training days for this academic year, when the school will be closed to pupils are Monday 16th April and Friday 15th June.

Science Week 19th March

During the week commencing 19th March, we will be celebrating science week, Miss Totty has arranged for all our pupils to take part in a variety of science themed activities to explore fascinating themes in science. We will be finishing the week with a science themed activity to incorporate Sports Relief. We ask that pupils come to school in any sports kit on the day (Friday 23rd March) and bring £1 to make a donation to Sports Relief.



Family team weekly events:

- Coffee morning on Mondays from 09:00 - 10:30am
- Stay and Play on Wednesdays from 09:00 -10-30am
- Fruit Tuck shop every Friday from 3:00pm

House Point Winners

Well done to the following children for getting the most house points in their class last half term: Fatima (Wren), Amelia (Lark), Hidayah (Robin), Mohammed Abdallah (Kingfisher), Kinston (Owl), Zoya (Woodpecker), Aasma (Dove), Sulaiman (Starling), Abdallah (Starling), Nusrat (Hedgehog), Daria (Squirrel), Samiha (Hare), Christi (Otter) and Kamai (Fox)

Key Dates:

Please find below a list of important dates for you to be aware of this term.

30 th March – 16 th April	Easter holiday
19 th April	Learn English for Parents – enrolment 9:00am 26 th March
28 th May – 1 st June	Summer half term holiday
15 th June	Training day
23 rd July	Summer holiday

Staffing and Leavers

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Islam. I would like to put on record my thanks for her contribution to the school in the last year and wish her well for the future. I can also confirm that Miss Bernard is no longer working at River Bank Primary and we also wish her every success. The school's recruitment drive went extremely well and I am pleased to say that we have appointed all of the teachers that we need in the school to ensure that we are fully staffed for the summer term and for September 2018.

Parent emails and communication

We are continuing to update our database of parent contact details to enable the school to move away from sending home paper copies of letters and other information. Using an email system will help parents get instant information, makes communication more reliable and means the information is available in your inbox at all times. Thank you to those parents who have provided us with an up to date email address. If you have not yet done so, please email info@riverbankprimary.org stating your child's name and class in the subject line of the email.

From the Family Worker Team

We will be running a new FREE ten session workshop to support parents learn English, this workshop will start on Thursday 19th April from 1:00 – 3:00pm. Enrolment is Monday 26th March at 9am. During this half term we have arranged for Parent Zone to carry out an interactive workshop 'Digital Resilience' with our year three and four pupils, to teach them about being safe on line.

Save the Children

Thank you to all of the families that supported the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. We have received a letter from the charity thanking the children for their donations.

Our Olympic value for March is EQUALITY