

## Dear River Bank parents and carers

Welcome back to school after half term. I hope you had an enjoyable break with your children. We are really excited about the things we have in store for this half term, including numerous sporting events, trips to Dell Farm, St Albans Cathedral and Abbey and a Christmas disco to finish the term off. Reports for the autumn term will be with you a week before the end of term so you have time to follow up with teachers any questions you may have. I wish you all the very best for the run up to the Christmas period and please do not hesitate to come in and see a member of staff if you need any help or support with anything at all. With my best wishes, David Sansom

## School Timings

You will all know that our school day has changed and that we now have an extended day, with the exception of Friday. It is very important that pupils are collected at 1:00pm on a Friday. Only the children of parents who are working or studying are able to use the afternoon activity club between 1:00pm and 3:30pm. Numbers in this club are limited and must be available for those parents who are genuinely unable to collect their children before 3:30pm. **For your child to attend you should have already filled in a form to confirm their place.**

## Happy's Circus

Thank you to all the families that came to our first visit from Happy's Circus. We had a wonderful day with the circus here. The pupils enjoyed seeing the big top being put up on the field and all pupils had a chance to visit the big top in the afternoon and watch some of the performers warm up for the evening show. It was a great experience and all of the 500 people that came had a brilliant time. Having the circus helped raise money for the school; which the school council will now have to decide how to spend. Our next fundraising event will be a Christmas disco to be held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

## Bath Road and the school car park

I am really disappointed to announce that we have witnessed two members of our school community being hit by moving cars during the last few weeks as children are being dropped off to school. This is extremely concerning and completely preventable. Colleagues from the school try their best to help manage the traffic each morning but this task is becoming increasingly difficult, and dangerous. Parents are now urged to stick to the advice below:

- Do walk to school if at all possible. A walk of 20 minutes, even in the colder weather, has many benefits.
- Do park in Wardown Park car park and walk across – this takes two minutes.
- Do not park on the yellow lines or zig zags – this is illegal and cars doing this will be photographed and reported.
- Do not turn in the road. This is dangerous for children.
- Do not use your car horn to show frustration – this makes no difference, can scare our younger children and causes a disturbance for our neighbours.

## Names

We have lots of lost property left in the school at the end of each week. The vast majority of these items are not named. Please name **ALL** of your children's items, including shoes, jumpers, PE kits, lunch boxes, hats, glasses etc. Please check and rename any items where names may be faded by regular washing. All of these things are expensive and we want to be able to return lost items as soon as possible. Please help us do this by naming **EVERYTHING**.



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## School Car Park

After the Easter holidays, the back staff car park will be no longer available to parents. Growth in our staff team means there will only be limited space available. Using this facility has been a privilege up to now but we can no longer sustain the number of cars coming on to our site. It is becoming increasingly dangerous for our children and protecting their safety is a priority. Please begin to plan for this when thinking about your journeys to school after Easter.

## Seeing Teachers

Being able to talk to your child's class teacher after school is important. I know this can be difficult because the teacher's priority is to safely dismiss all of the children in their class and this takes time. If you need to talk to the teachers about anything at all and are not able to see them before and after school – please contact the school office and leave a message asking for a call back. The teacher will return your call as soon as they can and no later than 24 hours after your initial enquiry.

## Coffee Morning and Stay and Play

Our family workers will be running the following events this half term. Please speak to Mrs Ahmed or Mrs Raza for more information:

Coffee morning	Monday (14:00-15:00)
Stay and Play	Wednesday (09:00-10:30)
Parenting course	Tuesday (13:00 to 15:00) with crèche
Speakeasy course	Wednesday (13:00 to 15:00) with crèche

## Holiday Clubs

Active Luton run some brilliant term time activities for children in the community. I have listed some below; which we would love some of our children to make the most of. Other activities are advertised in the 'Community Activities' section of our website:

Saturday Super Strikers – 5-10 year olds – 09:30-10:30 – FREE – call 01582 400 272 for more information  
Super Striker Tots – under 5's – 10:35-11:15 – FREE – call 01582 400 272 for more information  
Tennis – 7-9 year olds – 09:30-10:30 - £55 for 12 weeks – call 07979 433 688 for more information  
Tennis – 4-6 year olds – 10:30-11:30 - £55 for 12 weeks – call 07979 433 688 for more information  
Tennis – 9+ year olds – 11:30-12:30 - £55 for 12 weeks – call 07979 433 688 for more information

## Dates for you Diary

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Lark class visit to Dell Farm
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Wren class visit to Dell Farm
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Kingfisher class visit to Dell Farm
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Squirrel class assembly 14:50-15:10
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Badger class visit to St Albans Cathedral and Abbey
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Hare class assembly 14:50-15:10
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Fox and Otter class visit to St Albans Cathedral and Abbey
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 school trip
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS winter crafts session (time to be confirmed).
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas jumper day
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Autumn term reports sent home
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Parents' forum – meet the headteacher 15:00-15:20
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Christmas performance
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas disco for all pupils
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Last day of term

November's value of the month is RESPECT