

Dear River Bank parents and carers

We have another busy month in store for our pupils and are really looking forward to all of the exciting things that will be taking place. We have a number of class assemblies going on as well as a trip to the British Schools Museum for year four pupils.

Please continue to access the knowledge organisers that you can find on the school website to support your child in learning and remembering key information from the topics they are doing in class. Ask a teacher for help if you're not sure how to do this.

Thank you to all parents who sent their children in to school last Friday. We were able to open because our site was safe, the vast majority of teachers could get to school and the surrounding roads were passable. Pupils enjoyed normal lessons and had a great time playing in the snow at play time and lunch time. Closing a school because of snow, or keeping it open, is always a very difficult decision and one that will divide parents. We hope that, by staying open, we were able to support parents who still had to go to work. As always, please come in and talk to me if you have any feedback.

Best wishes

David Sansom

Sporting Success – Dodgeball

Well done to the pupils who did so well at a recent dodgeball competition. The pupils played brilliantly and enjoyed the experience. Thank you for taking part Moatasim, Sulaiman, Amin, Emma, Jaden, Khadija, Elinga and Muhammad.

Extreme weather procedure

With the winter months now well and truly here, we will only close the school in the event of extreme weather conditions when it is deemed unsafe for our staff and pupils to get to school. If there is such an event we will notify parents on Facebook, Twitter, our school website and the Luton Borough Council website.

Year one – Animal Edutainment

Our year one pupils had a very exciting learning experience linked to their science topic 'It's a Wild World' with the visit of a tarantula, python, millipede, cockroach, hedgehog, jungle nymph and African land snail. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed seeing these species so closely, some more so than others.



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Times Table Rock Stars

Pupils have access to this brilliant times tables game at home. They can access it using most devices. Regular practice of times tables really helps your child be able to automatically do basic maths – this helps when they have to do more difficult sums and supports them in other subjects too. Ten minutes practicing each day after school would make a massive difference – please give it a go.

Your child and the seatbelt law

It is with concern that some of our pupils are still not wearing a seat belt when arriving and leaving school by car. The law states ‘You must make sure that any children in the vehicle you’re driving are: in the [correct car seat](#) for their height or weight until they reach 135 centimetres tall or their 12th birthday, whichever is first. **You can be fined up to £500 if a child under 14 isn’t in the correct car seat or wearing a seat belt while you’re driving** (www.gov.uk/seat-belts-law).

Attendance

We continue to see an improvement in our overall attendance. However, we have recently seen a slight decline. Although we appreciate that this time of year is when the winter illnesses surface, our staff will always keep an eye on your child if you feel they are under the weather and we will contact you if we feel they should be at home.

Car park reminder

There are eight school weeks remaining before our school car park will no longer be available to parents. Growth in our staff team means there will only be limited space available. This facility has been a privilege for parents up to now but we can no longer sustain the number of cars coming on to our site. Please begin to plan for this when thinking about your journeys to school after Easter.

- 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.

Late arrivals

Unfortunately there are a minority of children who regularly arrive late for school. Children should arrive in their class from 8:30am and be in class ready to learn by 8:45am. Children who arrive late are not only missing part of their education and the start of the school day, but also interrupt the rest of the class during their learning.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 6 th February	Wren Class assembly
Friday 15 th February	Pupils break up for half term
Monday 25 th February	Pupils return to school
Wednesday 27 th February	Kingfisher Class assembly
Tuesday 5 th March	Parents’ evening
Tuesday 12 th March	Badger Class assembly
Tuesday 26 th March	Otter Class assembly

February’s value of the month is **COURAGE**