

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. Pupils are completing assessments at the moment so we can see how well they have done so far this year.

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.

Best wishes - David Sansom

New Staff

Many of you will be aware that Rebecca Atkins is expecting a baby. Rebecca will be leaving us at February half term to start her maternity leave. In the meantime we have welcomed Bethany Rands to our office team to cover her maternity leave. We wish Rebecca good luck with her imminent arrival.

School Trips

EYFS Park Visit

As part of our EYFS topic on seasons, our pupils recently had a winter walk to Wardown Park where they saw lots of signs of winter as well as enjoying splashing in the puddles.

Year One Animal Edutainment Visit

This term year one were visited by the Animal Edutainment workshop. The children had a fun packed morning learning about the different animal groups. It was a perfect start to our topic "It's a Wild World". There was lots of discussion on what the animals eat and where they live. Children learnt interesting facts about each animal. The children and the teachers were also given the opportunity to hold our lovely visitors! It was an amazing experience.

Year Five Warner Brother Studio Visit

A wizarding time was had by all in year five on their recent visit to the Harry Potter Studios Tour in Watford. The day got off to a fabulous start with a workshop that taught the children about the development of characters in stories where they got to see up close some of the original masks, costumes and props used in the Harry Potter film series. Amongst many of the highlights of the day was the opportunity to 'fly' on a Nimbus 2000 broomstick – just like Harry – made possible by the magic of a green screen (you'd never know that they weren't really flying!). Wandering through the Forbidden Forest was not without its dangers as giant spiders spun their webs overhead. A leisurely stroll along Diagon Alley was rounded off by a visit to Gringotts Bank where year five were nearly toasted and roasted by the resident dragon. A huge surprise that no one was expecting! It was a truly magical day and one that the pupils will not forget. A big thank you to River Bank staff and parents from all of our year five children for such a brilliant day!

River Bank Rockers

On Monday 20th January, 23 children formed a choir with 6000 children at Birmingham Arena. We were joined by special guests Tony Hadley, The Shires and Ruti. We sang and danced to a variety of songs, our favourites were a Queen medley and a medley of spooky songs. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we hope to take our River Bank Rockers Choir again next year.



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Sporting Events

With a number of sporting events this term; the following children have already shown their skills and determination in the following competitions.

Dodgeball:

Alaia, Aimee, Hamzah, Ionut, Owais, Saaim, Sulaiman and Yusuf. Well done team.

KS1 Net and Wall festival:

Aisha, Ayana, Daniyal, Mustafa, Ishaq, Jamie, Mahiba, Maryam K, Tomas and Umar. Well played team.

Collecting on Time

It is vital that parents and carers pick their children up on time. Children who are not picked up on time become worried. It is not fair on them, or the teachers that have to wait with them. We allow a ten minute grace period for collecting because we understand that sometimes you are delayed and it cannot be helped. However, after that ten minute period; children will be placed in to after school club and you will be charged for this child care.

Pantomime

As all the children thoroughly enjoyed our pantomime trip to see Peter Pan at the theatre in December, we have already booked for next year to see Cinderella. A letter will be sent home with further details before the end of this term.

Free Family Activities

We recently sent home an information leaflet regarding activities our family team are running. Please see below a reminder.

Mondays – 09:00 – 10:00 Coffee Morning

Pop in for a drink and a chat. Donations of biscuits and cakes are always welcome.

Tuesdays – 13:30 – 15:00 Stay and play

Bring your pre-school child/children along for a fun filled session

Wednesday – 09:00 – 10:30 Cooking on a budget

Ideas to stretch your cooking budget and share and taste the food we prepare.

Wednesday – 13:00 – 17:00 Stop smoking sessions

By appointment only – contact Total Wellbeing on 0300 555 4152

Thursday 09:00 – 10:00 A walk in the park

Meet at the school for a leisurely or power walk in the park.

Lunchboxes

It is important and good practice that children have all they need for school with them at the start of their school day. Unfortunately, we have a number of children who regularly do not have their lunchbox or PE kit with them and parents bring them in during the school day. We have a very busy school office and our office team are regularly expected to deliver these items to the child's class, which not only interrupts the whole class learning, but can also be upsetting for children.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 12 th February	Hare class assembly 09:35 – 10:00
Wednesday 12 th February	Parent Forum 14:45
Monday 17 th – 21 st February	Half term holiday
Tuesday 25 th February	School nurse drop in (changed from 6 th March)
Tuesday 25 th February	Badger and Otter class trip to British Schools Museum
Wednesday 26 th February	Deer and Fox class trip to British Schools Museum.