

## Dear River Bank parents and carers

Thank you all for making the half term so successful. For the children and adults coming back to school after such a long absence; we know that returning to school would have taken some adjustment. We have been delighted with how well our children have settled in and are so happy to be teaching busy classes and a full and normal curriculum. Thank you for your patience and understanding with the changes we have made. Your support is really appreciated. Wishing you all an amazing half term break, David Sansom.

## Half Term and Coronavirus

If someone in your family tests positive for COVID-19 over the half term holiday – please get in touch and let us know. You can do this by calling the school office on 01582 531 860 or by emailing [info@riverbankprimary.org](mailto:info@riverbankprimary.org).

## New arrivals

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Betts, Miss De Ronde and Mrs Ali have all given birth to beautiful little girls. We continue to miss them here at school and know that you will join us in wishing them a happy and healthy time whilst they are on maternity leave.

## Luton Foodbank

Last year, we received very generous donations of food from our families to support this charity. This year, due to COVID 19, we are unable to donate items of food but instead we took part in the Foodbank Harvest challenge, which is a competition for all Luton schools to enter. To help the foodbank raise money, we held a non-uniform day on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and asked that every child donate £1. We will send all of the money raised to Luton Foodbank so they can buy food on our behalf.

## Year Two Trip to Local Church

Year Two were welcomed by the pastor and other members of the congregation at Olive Tree Church. The children learnt all about the features of the church and how Christians follow the life of Jesus. Thank you to our parent volunteers who supported our visit.

## Eco Club

This half term we have seen our first after-school Eco-Club, with nineteen year five pupils attending. Our Eco-Club members have been busy auditing our grounds and planting lots of bulbs, which you will see in the spring. This year, we have big plans to not only learn about nature but to increase the amount of wildlife that visits or lives at our school. We will do this by building habitats and developing areas around our school, we hope you enjoy seeing the results of the children's hard work.

## School Photographer

Our school photographer will be coming in to school on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November and your child will come home with a proof of their photograph on the same day. Unfortunately, this year it will not be possible for siblings to be photographed together.

## PE Lessons

We are planning to teach as much PE as possible this term, most of which will take place outdoors. Pupils should have with them a suitable waterproof jacket to wear on PE days to help us continue to learn and play outside.



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## Year Six Transfer to High School

Parents of year six children should have received a letter from Luton Borough Council with information on how to make an online application for a high school place for September 2021. The closing date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October. Parents will receive notification of their child's allocated school on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021. If you have not received a letter and would like a paper copy of the application form please contact our school office. Some high schools in Luton are holding virtual open days, further information about these can be found on their websites.

## Starting School Applications for Children Born Between 1/9/2016 - 31/8/2017

Applications for children due to start school in September 2021 (children born between 1/9/2016 to 31/8/2017) can now be made online through Luton Borough Council.

[https://m.luton.gov.uk/Page/Show/Education\\_and\\_learning/Schools\\_and\\_colleges/School%20admissions/transferring-to-a-new-school-or-academy/Pages/Starting-school-in-September.aspx](https://m.luton.gov.uk/Page/Show/Education_and_learning/Schools_and_colleges/School%20admissions/transferring-to-a-new-school-or-academy/Pages/Starting-school-in-September.aspx)

The closing date for making an application is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Parents will be notified of their allocated school on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

## Food Allergies

We have a few children in our school who have serious food allergies. To ensure we do not put those children at risk, if your child brings a packed lunch to school, please do not send your child in with nuts or anything that contain nut ingredients.

## School Bags

We have noticed that a number of our younger pupils are bringing very large bags to school. It is not necessary for children to bring anything but their book bag or a small bag as children come to school in their PE kit on their PE days. Bags should measure no larger than 35cm x 24cm (A4 sized) so that they can fit into storage boxes.

## Car Drivers

If you are a parent that does not walk your child to and from school, and you have no alternative but to bring and collect by car; we would like to remind you that we are fortunate that Luton Borough Council allows our parents to use the car park in Wardown Park. This is a few minutes walk to the school gate. Using this facility prevents the local roads in the area becoming even more congested.

We like to think that we have a very good relationship with our local community, however, we have recently received telephone calls that private driveways are being blocked and private parking bays are being used by our pupils' parents at drop off and pick up times. This has prevented local residents being able to go about their daily business and has involved people being late for work and appointments. We would appreciate your support in ensuring that you are courteous and considerate to the local community, pedestrians and other road users.

## Dates for your Diary

Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> October	- Half term holiday
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	- Year 5 Ancient Egyptian Workshop
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	- School photographer
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	- Year 6 World War II workshop
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	- Year 4 Badger and Deer class St Albans Cathedral visit
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	- Year 4 Fox and Otter St Albans Cathedral visit
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	- Children in Need (further information to follow)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	- EYFS Dinosaur workshop

November's value of the month RESPECT