

Dear River Bank parents and carers

With the Christmas holidays approaching; I am hoping that this is the last time I will have to write to any of you this term. It has been a great term in so many ways – pupils have enjoyed being back in school and we have had a fantastic time in class getting back to our normal lessons. Although there has been some disruption with bubble closures, pupils have continued to learn online and we have seen really good numbers joining live lessons from home.

The Department for Education announced on Monday that schools could choose to take Friday 18th as a training day. We have decided not to do this because we have already planned a training day for January 4th and would not have been able to change things around in time. We are also aware that giving parents a few days notice of a closure day is not helpful. Pupils are expected in on Friday 18th, as normal.

From Friday 18th to Thursday 24th December, schools will continue to play a part in the track and trace of contacts of positive coronavirus cases. If your child receives a positive test result in this time; you must contact us at school on info@riverbankprimary.org so that we can let the families of children in the class know that they need to isolate. Clearly, we hope to avoid having to do this. Ensuring that families are not mixing outside of school is an important part of this. There are guidelines here about what is allowed and what is not allowed:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family>

I hope you all have a restful Christmas holidays and enjoy spending time together as a family.

Best wishes

David Sansom

Goodbye

We are saying goodbye this term to three members of staff. Mrs Stynes, Dragonfly Class teacher, is leaving us to teach at another school in Bedfordshire. We will miss her incredibly and wish her all the best in her new role. Miss Begum will take over the class in the spring term. We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Dynek, who this year has been teaching in Fox and Badger Class. Mrs Dynek has been an important part of our year four team and we wish her well as she aims to spend more time with her family. Mr Dasilva will take over in Fox Class on a Monday and Badger Class on a Tuesday. Our final goodbye is to Miss Khalid from Butterfly Class. She is moving to Dallow Primary to continue her training and she moves on with our best wishes for the future.

EYFS assemblies

Our pupils in EYFS have been working very hard for their class assemblies. However, unfortunately due to the current circumstances we are unable to invite parents in to watch. However, we are pleased to say that we will be filming their assemblies and will send a link to their parents so they can watch their child's class on our school private YouTube channel.

Extra curricular after school clubs

Times table club for year four and five and extended day for year six have now finished for this term. They will start again week beginning 11th January. Eco Club will continue next week with their normal session.



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Lunches for the last week of term

Thank you for your understanding with the situation with our kitchen due to the Luton Borough Council team that operate our kitchen having to self-isolate. Unfortunately, we will be unable to provide a hot meal for next week.

- A packed lunch will be provided for pupils in Reception, Y1 and Y2 because they are entitled to universal free school meals.
- A packed lunch will be provided for pupils who receive a benefits related free school meal in Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6.
- All parents should make their menu choices again on Scopay:
 - O = Packed lunch from home
 - A = School packed lunch TUNA MAYONNAISE
 - B = School packed lunch PLAIN CHEESE
 - C = School packed lunch OTHER DIETARY REQUIREMENT
- All parents who would normally pay for a meal should provide their own packed lunch for the rest of the week. Any money on your Scopay account will stay there as a credit. This change has been done for you and will show as a Q code on your Scopay account.
- Any dietary requirements will continue to be catered for.

Class parties

As mentioned in our letter sent home this week, we will be holding small class Christmas parties on the afternoon of Thursday 17th December.

Things to remember

- Shop sealed bags/boxes, tubs of food to share should be brought in Monday 14th December by 12:00.
- Any food brought in after 14th December will be sent home
- Boys to bring in something sweet
- Girls to bring in something savoury
- Please remember no nuts
- Children can come to school on the 17th December in their party clothes (with sensible footwear).

New term starts Tuesday 5th January 2021

We look forward to welcoming all the children back on Tuesday 5th January.

Free School Meals over Christmas

Luton Borough Council has teamed up with a food voucher supplier called HUGGG.ME. Families who are entitled to free school meals will receive a text message with the details. Families will receive £30 per child for the two week holiday and this can be spent in a variety of supermarkets. We will start processing the information next week once our account has been activated by HUGGG.ME.

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

The closing date for making an application is 15th January 2021.

Finally

There will always be someone available to contact at school. We will answer your calls and respond to all emails to info@riverbankprimary.org. Please know that you can contact us for anything at all. We will do everything in our power to support our families. Please also remember to use this email to report any positive cases of coronavirus in your family over the Christmas holidays.

January's value of the month FRIENDSHIP