

## Dear River Bank parents and carers

We have had a great start to the year, with 120 new starters to our reception classes starting school for the first time and lots of new adults joining our lovely team. Our school has grown significantly in the last few years so I thought I would tell you a story in numbers:

Our school opened in 2013 with 60 pupils in Reception. Pupils were taught in huts at the back of the field whilst the old Bath Road swimming pool was demolished. The new building opened officially in September 2014. When I started in 2017, the school had pupils up to year four; with 450 pupils on roll. As of today – we have 25 classes, 738 pupils, 34 teachers, 47 teaching assistants, 2 family workers, 4 administrators, 1 librarian, 13 midday supervisors, 2 after school club leaders and 2 site staff. I am delighted to work in a school with such brilliant pupils and committed adults.

I am also thrilled that our parent governors have been working in the background to run events and plan for future activities. A weekly coffee morning is being held on Thursday mornings between 09:00 and 10:00. More information can be found on posters around the school. Look out for further information from Saira and Kerry about their exciting plans for the year! Best wishes, David Sansom

## Additional Bank holiday

Due to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year there is an additional Bank Holiday on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022. As this date falls during the half term holiday, the government have given school employees and pupils one extra day of holiday this academic year. Therefore, River Bank Primary will close for the Christmas holiday break on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December, which is a day earlier than originally published. Our term dates are always available on our website.

## Parents' Forum

I will resume the running of a parents' forum this year. I really enjoyed meeting with a group of parents before coronavirus appeared, in order to share updates and get your feedback. This is an open event and any parent can attend all, some, or just one of the dates. Please put the following dates in your diary and arrive at the main reception – I look forward to seeing you all then.

1. Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 2:45pm
2. Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 2.45pm
3. Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 2.45pm
4. Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 2.45pm

## School Photographer

Our school photographer will be coming in to school on Thursday 4<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.

## 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 2022. 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 2022.

If you have not received a letter, please contact our school office.



## Drop off and pick up times

As our school times have now reverted back to pre COVID lockdown times, we have a number of children arriving late in the mornings. Children can arrive in their classes from 8:30am and must be in class ready to start their lessons at 8:45am. Any child arriving **on or after 8:45** will be marked as late. Regular lateness can result in a fine being issued by the Local Authority.

We also have a number of children who are late being collected. Children in EYFS, Y1 and Y2 finish at 15:15 Monday to Thursday and 12:45 on a Friday. Children in Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 finish at 15:30 Monday to Thursday and 13:00 on a Friday (except days where there is extended day for Y5/Y6). Parents of children who are late being collected will incur a charge in line with our after school club costs.

## Starting School Applications for Children Born Between 1/9/2017-31/8/2018

Applications for children due to start school in September 2022 (children born between 1/9/2017 to 31/8/2018) 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 2022. Parents will be notified of their allocated school on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

## 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 contains nut ingredients.

## Birthday Treats

I would like to remind parents that although we love celebrating birthdays with the children at River Bank we are unable to let pupils hand out sweets or cakes on their birthdays. We cannot do this because of allergies children may have, the impact it can have on the children's overall health and the problem it can cause with littering on Bath Road and the school site. We have communicated this in previous terms and ask that pupils bring in something else to share on their birthdays if they want to e.g. simple items of stationery.

## Dates to Remember

Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	- Year 2 Parent meetings
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	- EYFS Parent meetings
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	- Hedgehog Class assembly – parents welcome 9:30am
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	- Year 1 Parent meetings
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	- Year 3 Parent meetings
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	- Owl Class assembly – parents welcome 9:30am
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	- Break up for half term.
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	- Children return to school
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	- School photographs
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	- Starling Class assembly – time to be confirmed
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	- Children in Need
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	- Dove Class assembly – time to be confirmed
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	- Woodpecker Class assembly – time to be confirmed
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	- Break up for Christmas
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	- Staff training, school closed to children
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	- Children return to school

October's value of the month EXCELLENCE