

## Dear River Bank parents and carers

As we close for the first half-term holiday of this academic year; I would like to thank you for all of your support and kindness. The pupils have been absolutely brilliant this half-term and have been working ever so hard. Many of you will have noticed a new tree that has been planted at the front of the school. This is a blossoming cherry tree and has been planted in memory of Louise, our colleague who died in February. Please help us protect this tree by not allowing your children to climb on it. I am grateful for the generosity shown by the community to support Luton Foodbank's Harvest food drive. Please see the message later on in the newsletter – thank you all. We hope that you all have a lovely half term holiday and look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Best wishes, David Sansom

## Letter from the Queen

Some of our year six pupils were reading a story in English about children that discovered an unexploded bomb whilst digging for vegetables. Ishaan and Ishtiyag wrote to the Queen to tell her about the amazing story and to ask her about her vegetable patch. The boys were thrilled to get a response from the Hand of the Queen thanking them for their letters and describing to the boys how the Queen grows her own vegetables. Well done boys!

## Sporting Events

With a number of sporting events now being able to take place, the following children have already shown their skills and determination in the following competitions.

**Key stage 1 Multi sports festival:** Aarav, Aleena, Edwin, Eshal, Hamza, Ilayna, Kaja, Sol, Valencia and Zuhayr.

**Key stage 2 Multi sports festival:** Alijah, Bilal, Damilola, Ezel, Omar and Rahmah.

**Boys' Rugby:** Yusuf, Umar, Niloy, Muhammed, Aahil, Akram, Ezel, Hamzah, Owais and Omar

**Girls' Rugby:** Aimee, Aleksandra, Alijah, Alaia, Amira, Azzahra, Dia, Liliana, Sumayah and Rahman.

## We are Going Paperless!

To ensure we are doing our utmost for the environment, we will no longer be sending out paper copies of letters. Parents will receive all correspondence by email. There are many benefits, not just environmental, but financial, use of administrative hours and you will always have the correspondence available to refer to.

- It is going to be an easy transition as correspondence will be sent to the email you have already registered with on Scopy (your child's online dinner account).
- You will only receive one letter that is sent out to the whole school.
- Trip letters - you will be able to click on a link that will send you straight to the payment/consent area of your Scopy account.

We will be introducing our online correspondence after the half term holiday and would appreciate your support with this new method of communication. A text will be sent out when we go live with this method.

## Year 3 PE

To all year 3 parents: PE days for Hare, Hedgehog and Squirrel class will change after half term. PE days will be Wednesday and Thursday. Thursday remains the same but Monday PE moves to a Wednesday.



Follow us on Facebook - River Bank Primary



Follow us on Twitter @riverbankluton

## Luton Foodbank

THANK YOU for your very generous donations to Luton Foodbank. It has been an extremely difficult year because of COVID 19 with more and more people relying on foodbanks. Your donations will help make sure no-one in Luton goes hungry.

## 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.

## Black History Month

This October, the whole school celebrated Black History Month. Each year group learnt about two or three significant people and events within Black History, these included Ruby Bridges, Benjamin Zephaniah and Mae Jemison. We all enjoyed a performance from Steel Pans in Motion and many parents/carers also enjoyed the performance at the end of the school day. Year five have been learning samba in music and each class performed their own composed piece during our singing assemblies where children had been learning Three Little Birds and Swing Low, Sweet Chariot. Children got the taste of Caribbean and African inspired dishes at lunch time. Our Black History Month has been a huge success, the children have enjoyed their learning and the discussions generated have been meaningful. It has also raised more awareness for the importance of an inclusive curriculum where all children from all races, cultures and heritages can be represented and celebrated.

## Items at the Office

We understand that sometimes your child forgets to bring something in to school and you have to drop it off at a later time. On these odd occasions, our office team are happy to deliver lunches, swimming kits, water bottles etc to pupils. Recently, however, we have seen an increasing number of parents doing this frequently. This makes the operation of our office difficult and our administrations team fall behind on other work they need to be doing e.g. looking after poorly children or checking in on pupil absences. Please support them by making sure that your child has their homework, lunch, water bottle, swimming kit and any other items they need before they go in to their classrooms.

## Dates for your Diary

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 – parents welcome 08:45am
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	- Children in Need
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	- Dove class assembly – parents welcome 08:45am
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	- Woodpecker class assembly – parents welcome 08:45am
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

November's value of the month RESPECT