

## Dear River Bank parents and carers

As we move towards the end of the calendar year, I wanted to again thank you for the brilliant support we have had from parents this term so far. December is always a busy month and we have lots to look forward to; including the EYFS Christmas performance, the Y1-Y6 trip to the pantomime as well as a number of other sporting and musical outings. This winter will, however, create pressure for a number of families as the cost of living increases. Please know that we are available to offer support to any families who may need help. We are able to connect families with other agencies and also have access to supermarket vouchers – please speak to anyone from our team about this. With my best wishes, David Sansom

## Great Fun, Healthy and Active Holiday Camps

Energise Luton Holiday Camps is Luton's Holiday Activity and Food programme, funded by the Department for Education, for school-age children up to 16 who are on income-related free school meals. Winter 2022 bookings are now open for holiday camps which will take place over the Christmas holidays - at Active Luton centres, schools, nurseries, clubs and community settings: <https://activeluton.coordinate.cloud/project/37190>

## Children in Need

The children and staff enjoyed coming to school in their Spotacular wear to support Children in Need, we raised £541.50, thank you for your generous donations..

## Trips

Year 6 pupils enjoyed a trip to Duxford Imperial War Museum earlier this month, where they had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of our World War Two topic. They saw their learning about various different operations come to life, such as Operation Dynamo and Pied Piper. Children especially enjoyed becoming journalists; reporting on the artefacts they found such as tanks, planes and artillery. As always, our pupils made us very proud with their exemplary behaviour and manners. We can't wait for the next trip!

## Pupil Absence

We have seen a large increase in pupils taking time out of school to visit family in other parts of the country or in overseas destinations. We understand that travel restrictions in the last few years have made it difficult to connect with families, especially where family members may be unwell. Unfortunately, we are unable to authorise visits like this and extended absences are likely to lead to the local authority issuing fines to parents.

## Sporting Events

Some of our children represented the school at a Sportmobility event at Inspire, where they had the opportunity to play table cricket, kurling, goalball and golf. Well done Abdus, Aron, Afsheen, Eesa, Faizah, Khadijah, Mahidul, Rayaan, Rayhan, Rehan and Sami.

## Football Matches

The following children represented our school in football matches against other local schools. As always they did the school and their parents proud showing their sportsmanship and skills. Well done to Alejandro, Cian, Danyal, Ezel, Ilie, Ishaq, Marcel, Oskar, Owais, Rafi, Saim and Stefan.



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## Netball match

The following represented our school in a netball match against another local school, their attitude, sporting behaviours and skills were a credit to us all. Well done to Ahriella, Akilah, Aminah, Esther, Ishita, Sanjida and Zainab.

## Dodgeball

Well done to Akilah, Ali, Esther, Ezel, Fatima, Feyisope, Jamie, Muhammad, Sanjida and Tayyba when representing the school in a dodgeball competition, they demonstrated excellent skills and determination during the competition.

## Take One Picture

Earlier on this term, the children in year 4 and 5 art club submitted their completed project, 'Cries of a Doomed Ship' inspired by the painting, 'A Shipwreck in Stormy Seas' by Claude-Joseph Vernet, to the National Gallery 'Take One Picture' 2023 exhibition. We eagerly await to hear if our 3D piece based on poetry written by the children has been accepted into next year's exhibition.

## Extreme Weather Conditions

Please be reminded that should there be an occasion that we have to close the school due to extreme weather conditions that would make it unsafe for our pupils and staff to attend, notification will be sent by text message to parents; as well as updates on our school website. Although the school will only be closed in extreme circumstances pupils would be expected to attend as normal if we open.

## Finally

We are always here to help if you need any support please come and speak to the safeguarding and wellbeing team (Neghat Ahmed, Jane Vale and Laura Scott). Alternatively you may wish to contact Parentline for parents and carers of those aged 0-19

Parentline offers advice and support on a range of issues such as weaning, sleep and emotional health. You can also find out how to access other local services. Watch our short animation: <https://vimeo.com/333146030>

**Luton: TEXT 07507 331886**

[www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/luton/parentline-luton](http://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/luton/parentline-luton)

## Dates to Remember

2 <sup>nd</sup> December	River Rockers (choir) singing at Luton Airport
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Woodpecker class assembly – parents welcome, arrive for 8:45 prompt start at 8:50
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Bumblebee and Butterfly Christmas performance – 9:10am prompt start at 9:15
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 trip to Gurdwara
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Ladybird and Dragonfly Christmas performance – 9:10 prompt start at 9:15
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 – Year 6 Pantomime Grove Theatre Dunstable
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day – donations to Save the Children
14 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas dinner
16 <sup>th</sup> December	School closes for Christmas holiday
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Christmas holiday
4 <sup>th</sup> January	School opens for spring term
19 <sup>th</sup> January	NHS flu catch up for Otter, Badger, Ash, Elm, Hazel and Oak classes for children who had returned their forms.

December's value of the month FRIENDSHIP