

Dear River Bank parents and carers

We have had a busy and productive January. We have really enjoyed welcoming parents and carers in for Badger and Otter Class assemblies, as well as having Year 3 and Year 4 parents attending in huge numbers to find out how you can support your child with learning their times tables.

I would like to thank parents and carers for their support with the partial closure we have experienced today due to strike action being taken by teachers who are part of the National Education Union. Whether to strike or not is a very personal decision and I am grateful that everyone within our school community has been respectful and understanding. I am pleased to say that attendance in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 has been excellent today and we have also been able to support pupils in Years 3 to Year 6 who have needed to come to school for various reasons. There are future strike days planned and we will let you know before these dates if there will be any impact on the normal running of our school (1st March, 15th March and 16th March).

Mrs Betts will be going on maternity leave after the February half term – I know you will join me in wishing her well for the next few months. Mrs Saleem will take over the teaching of Hedgehog Class on a Monday.

With my best wishes, David Sansom

Online Safety

We have noticed an increase in pupils talking to us in school about inappropriate and dangerous materials they are accessing online. This coincides with a national report published by The Children's Commissioner for England that tells us that 1 in 10 children have watched harmful material by the time they are 9 years old and 1 in 4 children have seen harmful material before they leave primary school. We recommend that you have regular conversations with your child about staying safe online, monitor their access to devices and take steps to maintain good parental controls on devices and to internet access. More information can be found here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#advice>

Choir at Luton Airport

I am delighted to be able to tell you that the total raised by schools, including ours, by singing at the airport over Christmas was £3,401.38. £1,700.69 will go to each of the following charities: East Anglian Air Ambulance and Luton Food Bank.

Sporting Events

A number of our pupils have represented our school at sporting events. Well done to you all.

Baskeball:

Angel, Ayana, Haris, Ishaq, Muhammad A, Mustafa, Saama and Umar

Multi Skills:

Aariz, Adeb, Angelica, Amaya, Aydin, Bethany-Rose, Dana, Henry, Maryem and Muhammad, R

Futsal (football based game):

Esther, Damilola, Fatima, Hidayah, Magadelana, Maryam, Sanjida and Tayyba.



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Head Lice

Head lice are a common occurrence at every school. Please remember to regularly check your child's hair for head lice and ensure that long hair is tied up for school. For further information please refer to the NHS website; www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice

Late arrivals

It is parents responsibility to ensure that their child/children attend school regularly and punctually. This encourages habits of good timekeeping and lessens any possible classroom disruption. **Children are able to go to their class from 8.30am and must be ready to learn at 8.45am.** If you are experiencing any difficulties with your child arriving at school on time, our family team would welcome the opportunity of meeting with you to discuss this. Children who arrive after the register has closed are recorded as an unauthorised absence and regular lateness may result in a penalty notice being issued. Please ensure that your child attends school regularly and punctually.

We ask parents to arrange for routine medical/dental appointments for their child around school times, where this is not at all possible parents are asked to provide evidence of appointments, this also applies arriving late for school in the mornings following appointments.

Collecting on Time

It is vital that parents and carers pick their children up on time. Children who are not picked up on time become worried. It is not fair on them, or the teachers that have to wait with them. We allow a ten minute grace period for collecting because we understand that sometimes you are delayed and it cannot be helped. However, after that ten minute period or if a child is regularly late being collected; children will be placed in to our after school club and you will be charged for this child care. This also applies to any after school clubs and extended days. This includes Friday's when EYFS, Y1 and Y2 finish at 12:45 and Y3 – Y6 finish at 13:00.

Dates For Your Diary

Thursday 9th February	Y1 Whipsnade trip
Thursday 9th February	Y4 residential meeting for parents 16:00.
Monday 13th February	Friday 17th February – Half term holiday
Tuesday 21st February	Fox Class assembly, parents welcome, 8:45am for a prompt 8:50am start.
Wednesday 1st March	EYFS parent consultation meetings
Thursday 2nd March	World Book Day – further information to follow
Tuesday 7th March	Y5 London Zoo visit
Tuesday 7th March	Kingfisher Class assembly, parents welcome, 8:45 for a prompt 8:50am start.
Wednesday 8th March	Y2 parent consultation meetings
Monday 13th March	Y6 Virtual Reality workshop
Wednesday 15th March	Y6 parent consultation meetings
Wednesday 15th – 17th March	Y4 residential
Tuesday 21st March	Robin Class assembly, parents welcome, 8:45 for a prompt 8:50am start.
Wednesday 29th March	Y3 London Tour and Science Museum trip