

## Dear River Bank parents and carers

I would like to firstly thank all parents for your understanding and patience in relation to the two NEU strike days that we have experienced so far this term. We are aware that this has caused significant disruption. Like you, we hope that the National Education Union and the Secretary of State for Education can resolve this dispute as quickly as possible.

Your children may have told you about our recent 'lockdown' practice. Schools must have lockdown procedures in place should it be necessary that we have to protect the members of our school from any possible threat. A lockdown could happen if an intruder entered the school site, if there was civil disturbance near the school or if there was any other perceived threat that meant we wanted to keep the children safe in their classrooms. Children know that in the event of a lockdown – we shut the blinds, turn off the lights and lock the doors. We carried out one of these drills in February and the pupils were excellent. If we have to lockdown for any genuine purposes we will contact parents so that they:

- Are reassured that the school understands their concern for their child's welfare, and that it is doing everything possible to ensure his/her safety.
- Do not contact the school. Calling the school could tie up telephone lines that are needed for contacting emergency providers.
- Do not come to the school. This could interfere with emergency provider's access to the school and may even put themselves and others in danger
- Wait for the school to contact them about when it is safe for them to come and collect their children, and where this will be from.

A letter to parents will be sent home following any serious incident to inform parents of the reasons for any lockdown.

## World Book Day

Don't forget World Book Day is on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. We are looking forward to seeing the children coming into school dressed as Revolting Children (inspired by Roald Dahl). Children can wear their school uniform as normal but **break the rules** of smart uniform. This could include wearing the school jumper back to front, having shirts untucked with a rolled up trouser leg, odd socks or having a crazy hairstyle.

## Trips and Workshops

Year one had an exciting day at Whipsnade Zoo and saw lots of different animals from the seven continents of the world. The children were lucky enough to see lions, giraffes, chimpanzees, rhinos, tigers, penguins and elephants. The sun was shining and the children enjoyed a picnic outside at lunchtime. We had lots of fun!

## Welcome

We have welcomed Kerry Coles to our team as Attendance and Admissions Officer. A role that was previously carried out by various members of our support team. Kerry will be monitoring pupil's daily attendance, late arrivals and will be working closely with our Family Team to support our pupils in regular attendance.

We have also received the exciting news that Louise Betts (Hedgehog Class) has given birth to a healthy little boy. Many congratulations to the entire Betts family!



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## Energise Holiday Clubs

Energise will be again running a club here at River Bank in the Easter holidays. Our camp will run from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> April. Bookings can be made via the Energise website from the 6<sup>th</sup> March onwards.

## Sporting Events

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

- Multi Sports at Inspire – Faizan, Fatima, Insha, Junaid, Kaja, Mattia, Tanzil and Victoria
- Cricket at Inspire – Abudl, Ali, Hadiyah, Ini, Saaim, Sanjida, Tayyba and Zayyan.

## Thank You

Thank you for your donations towards our fundraising event on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February. We were overwhelmed, but not surprised, at how kind and generous our families were! We raised £1963.50 for the Save the Children, Turkey and Syria earthquake appeal and £322 for Bright Eyes, a local charity that raises money to support disabled children in Luton.

## Red Nose Day

We will be participating in Red Nose Day this year, which is on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March, further information will be sent out shortly.

## Local Area

We have a very good relationship with the residents who live close to our school. However, we do often receive phone calls from home owners to complain that parents of our pupils are parking across their drive ways, blocking roads and driving too fast. If you have to bring your child to school by car, please be considerate to those living close to the school and drive at a sensible speed when driving on local roads to ensure the safety of all road users and pedestrians.

## Dates For Your Diary

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	EYFS parent consultation meetings
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day – further information to follow
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5 London Zoo visit
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Kingfisher class assembly, 8:45 for a prompt 8:50am start.
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Y2 parent consultation meetings
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Y6 Virtual Reality workshop
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Y6 parent meeting
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Y4 residential
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Robin class assembly, 8:45 for a prompt 8:50am start.
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3 London Tour and Science museum trip
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Last day of term
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holiday (school closed)
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April – Staff training day	School closed to pupils
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Children return to school

March's value of the month **COURAGE**