

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, the Y2 Great Fire of London day, our choir's trip to the airport as well as a number of other sporting outings. This winter will 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.

Welcome

Earlier this month we welcomed Mrs Greenacre as our new Designated Safeguarding Lead and Family Worker. She joins us with a wealth of experience in all areas of safeguarding and family worker support. She joins Mrs Vale and Miss Scott in our well established safeguarding team. Please do not hesitate to call in if you need support or advice, or you have any worries in relation to your child's wellbeing. We have also welcomed Mrs Chowdhury as an Intervention Teacher. Mrs Chowdhury is teaching small groups of children in Year 3 and Year 4 to support with mathematics and reading.

Goodbye

Sadly, at the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Miss Brown our Early Years Lead. Charlotte has been a huge asset to our school and has supported lots of our pupils when they started school for the first time. We wish her all the very best as she leaves us to take on new challenges. We will update EYFS parents on arrangements for January very soon.

Congratulations

We are pleased to share the exciting news that Miss Gray, Hare Class teacher, is expecting her first baby. Miss Gray will be starting her maternity leave in late January and will be replaced by Mrs Betts, who returns to Year 3 after her maternity leave.

School Council

There has been election news recently at River Bank. The following children have been selected as their class school council representative. Well done to: Haleema, Sara U, Ammerah A, Raima, Ikra, Khadijah A, Ayaan, Sami, Umayyah, Mikaeel, Liyaana, Kevin, Fatima, Zain M, Samihah, Zuhayr, Mahir, Ayaan, Alina, Noel, Sofiyah and Suraya. The school council have already made and positioned suggestion boxes for their classes to use and have planned special prizes for our Save the Children Christmas jumper day. They are also keen to improve our approach to recycling as a way of helping the environment.

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 remain open.



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Sporting Events

The following children represented the school at sporting events.

Year 5 and 6 Futsal – Alina, Amira, Khadija Ha, Khadija Hu, Lily, Mariya, Nafisa, Sawdah, Tahmida and Victoria

Year 5 and 6 Table Tennis – Aminah, Daniyal, Jamie, Krystiana, Mariyah, Noel, Salahuddin and Sofiya.

Year 5 and 6 Football – Caden, Danyal, Hamza, Henriks, Ishaq, Mao, Mohamed, Mustafa, Nadir, Sulaiman, Aahil, Kiyaan, Jamie and Jasir,

Year 5 and 6 girls' football – Alina, Amira, Asiyah, Daisy, Eshal, Khadija H, Laila, Mariaya, Nafisa, Samaa, Sanjida, Tabita and Victoria

Year 3 and 4 Sports Hall Athletics – Angelica, Barika, Bilal, Dylan, Eymen, Fadil, Hadiya, Ire, Jaelle, Richard, Yusuf and Zainab

Sportability Festival – Kai, Muhammad, Nabeel, Shah, Umar, Wiktor and Zainab

Year 5 and 6 Football – Alina, Anisah, Daniel, Fatima, Kiyaan, Jamie, Leia, Noel, Sayem, Shuaib.

Year 5 and 6 Netball – Aaria, Aleena, Alisha, Ayana, Duaa, Eida, Lexi May, Mariya, Mariyah and Zoya.

Children in Need

The children and staff enjoyed coming to school in their Spotacular clothes to support Children in Need. We raised £488.00, thank you for your generous donations.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Thank you for your donations to this years Poppy Appeal, we raised £307.17. Luton schools raised a whopping £17,867.02 in total.

Trips

Year 4 had a fantastic trip to St Albans Cathedral, where the children made apricot jam and butter. The children also had a Viking trail experience, exploring how Viking raiders raided monasteries, looked at artefacts and took part in lots of role play. Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed the trip and showed off their amazing Viking knowledge.

Year 3 had a Stone Age day where they learnt more interesting facts about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. During the workshop the children looked at the time line of where the different periods fitted into our own time line. The children also got to look and hold artefacts from the Stone Age period. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and most said it was the best day ever!

Dates to Remember

Monday 4 th December	Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop – Owl and Woodpecker classes
Tuesday 5 th December	School Choir performing at Luton Airport
	Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop – Dove and Startling classes
Wednesday 6 th December	Wren Class Assembly, parents welcome 8:45am for a prompt 8:50am start
Monday 11 th December	Year 2 visit to Olive Tree Church
Tuesday 12 th December	KS1 Pantomime trip – a few places still available
Wednesday 13 th December	Christmas Jumper Day – donation of £2 for Save the Children
	School Christmas Dinner
Thursday 14 th December	EYFS performance - Butterfly and Dragonfly classes
Friday 15 th December	EYFS performance –Bumblebee and Ladybird classes
Monday 18 th December	KS2 Pantomime visit - a few places still available
Tuesday 19 th December	Last day of the autumn term
Tuesday 3 rd January	Staff training – school closed to pupils
Wednesday 4 th January	Children return to school