

## Dear River Bank parents and carers

Thank you all for helping us enjoy a positive start to the half term. There is a lot to look forward to over the coming three weeks so please check the last page of this newsletter for important dates.

Mrs Kelly gave birth to a healthy baby boy in October and I know you will join me in wishing her and her family all of the best. We look forward to the return of Mrs Shan in the office from next week as she returns from her maternity leave.

We are really sad to be saying goodbye to Mr Evans, who is leaving us today. Mr Evans has gained a promotion at another Luton primary school. He has been so important to our school for many years in our PE team and we are going to really miss him.

This winter will create pressure for a number of families and their finances. 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.

## Volunteers Needed for 'Rooting for Wildlife' Project

We have joined forces with Groundwork East and Affinity Water to improve the banks of the River Lea that run behind our school grounds. We aim to clear lots of bramble, litter and remove any non-native species of plant. Following this; a new fence (on Abigail Close) will be erected and native species of plants reintroduced. We could really do with volunteers to help on the following days and times.

**11:00 to 13:00 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February**

Please let us know if you are willing to help (old clothes and sturdy footwear required) by emailing [info@riverbankprimary.org](mailto:info@riverbankprimary.org) with the words Rooting for Wildlife in the email subject line.

## Traffic Exclusion Zone for Bath Road – Luton Borough Council

Luton Borough Council are proposing the introduction of a traffic exclusion zone on Bath Road. The exclusion zone will carry a number of restrictions, which are listed below.

### Bath Road:

To introduce a No Entry for unauthorised motorised vehicles restriction between 8.00am and 9.15am and 2.30pm and 4.00pm on Mondays to Fridays during school term time only, in:

- Bath Road from Carlton Crescent.
- Foxglove Way from New Bedford Road.
- Poppy Close from Primrose Close; and
- Primrose Close from Foxglove Way.

To prohibit turning for unauthorised motorised vehicles between 8.00am and 9.15am and 2.30pm and 4.00pm on Mondays to Fridays during school term time only, in:

- New Bedford Road, no left turn into Foxglove Way.
- New Bedford Road, no right turn into Foxglove Way.
- Carlton Crescent, no left turn into Bath Road; and
- Carlton Crescent, no right turn into Bath Road.

If you wish to comment on the proposed traffic exclusion zone, you should email [md.shahnewaz@luton.gov.uk](mailto:md.shahnewaz@luton.gov.uk) by **no later than 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025** quoting reference HW/TRO/P2149.



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## Washing Machine Needed

Our school washing machine has broken down and is beyond repair. In order to save some money and think about the environment, we were wondering if anyone had a second hand washing machine they do not need that we could have. If you do have a spare washing machine that you no longer need, please email [info@riverbankprimary.org](mailto:info@riverbankprimary.org) and let us know. We will come and collect!

## EYFS

The children enjoyed a bright, autumn morning during our walk to Wardown Park. The children were learning about signs of autumn and the squirrels came very close for the children to see them. Last week, the children loved taking part in a range of role play scenarios as part of our 'Little City' visit. We had hairdressers, vets and police all ready for action. We also had a visit from a Fire Community Officer and she talked to the children about how firefighters help us in our community. Well done reception children, great behaviour and listening skills during our very busy start to the half term!

## Year 3

Year 3 enjoyed a fascinating trip to Celtic Harmony to experience the Stone Age! The children explored the roundhouses and even got to see a fire being made! They were especially interested in learning about how the Stone Age people hunted and gathered to survive. Everyone behaved wonderfully despite the cold weather and showed great curiosity and respect throughout the visit.

## Year 4

Deer and Otter class visited St Alban's Cathedral. During this trip, they had a Viking trail session where they saw some Viking artefacts, learned about crime and punishment in Viking times and even re-enacted a raid on a monastery. They also participated in a food workshop where they made jam and butter from scratch. The children enjoyed themselves and the staff at the cathedral all complimented them on their impeccable behaviour.

## Year 6

Pupils visited London's RAF Museum where they gained an insight into what life was like for children during the Blitz. As the air raid siren sounded, they were ushered out of their war-time classroom, and into the Anderson Shelter for their safety. We have already been impressed by the writing pupils have produced since returning to school, where they are using their experience to help them write letters from an evacuee child's perspective.

## School Council trip to the Houses of Parliament

This month, our KS2 school councillors had an incredible opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament. They took part in an engaging and interactive tour, exploring the historic building and learning about how our democracy works. The children were thrilled to sit in the House of Commons and watch part of a live debate in the Commons Chamber, even catching a glimpse of the Speaker in action. The highlight of the day was meeting our local MP, Rachel Hopkins, who generously answered the children's thoughtful questions and shared insights into her role. It was an inspiring experience that gave our councillors a real understanding of how decisions are made in government.

## Sporting Events

The following children represented the school at sporting events.

Y1 and 2 Sports Hall Athletics: Tian, Hidayah, Daniyal, Liyana, Dajen, Amber, Jayden, K'Asia-Rae, Reggie and Soluchi.

Year 5 and 6 football tournament: Ismail, Muhammed R, Sol, Yusuf, Ahyan, Bilal, Eymen, Muhammed R and Sahim

Basketball match: Yousuf, Rayyan, Nathan, Kamsi, Inaya, Syed, Rayhan, Ama and Inaaya.

## Dates to Remember

Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Hedgehog class assembly, parents welcome, 0845am for a prompt 0850am start
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Badger and Fox class trip to St Albans Cathedral
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 2 trip to local church
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 Djembe performance, parents welcome, 2:30pm prompt start Christmas Jumper Day – donations for Save the Children Stay and Play
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas Dinner (order through Scopay). Pantomime trip (Y4, Y5, Y6 and Squirrel Class) Winter Disco (tickets available through Scopay)
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	School Council Christmas Cookie sale
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Parent and toddler winter walk 0915am – more information to follow
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Pantomime trip (Y1, Y2, Hare, Mole and Hedgehog Class)
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Bumblebee Nativity Performance, parents welcome 9:15am Butterfly Nativity Performance, parent welcome 2:30pm
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Dragonfly Nativity Performance, parents welcome 9:15am Ladybird Nativity Performance, parents welcome 2:30pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Class parties and last day
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff training day - school closed to pupils
Tuesday 6 <sup>h</sup> January	Children return to school

