

## Dear River Bank parents and carers

Our children have, as usual, been absolutely brilliant this term. We have been fortunate this term to have had lots of visitors in to school as well as the opportunity to take our pupils out on a number of trips, the highlight being the pantomime at The Grove Theatre.

I am sorry to say that Laura Scott will be leaving the school at the end of this term. You have already been notified of this in a separate email. Laura has worked at River Bank since it first opened its doors in September 2013. She has worked with such dedication with so many pupils and families over those years as our nurture lead, part of our safeguarding team and as a champion for pupil and adult mental health and well-being. Laura leaves to take up a post in child and adolescent mental health in Hertfordshire and we are all going to miss her so much. I know you will all join me in wishing her the very best.

Zaina Hussain (Bumblebee Class) will leave at the end of term to start her maternity leave. Jessica Hanson will take over teaching Bumblebee Class on Mondays and Tuesdays, with Emma Barton continuing to teach and oversee the class for the rest of the week.

In September we carried out a full off-site evacuation due to a security alert that had been telephoned in to the school. Following several months of liaising with Bedfordshire Police I can now update parents on the outcome of their investigation. A child of secondary age was identified by the police as the person who made the call and the young person has been given advice by the police, along with their parents. I know it was a very worrying time for parents and hope that knowing the event was caused by the immature behaviour of a child will bring about some closure for all of us.

I hope you all have a restful Christmas holiday and enjoy spending time together as a family. We look forward to seeing you all again on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**. Best wishes, David Sansom.

## Change of PE Day

There are a number of changes to the PE timetable for spring term. Please look closely to see your child's new PE day from January.

Day	Class to come in PE kit	Y4 Swimming
Mon	Kingfisher, Lark, Woodpecker, Mole, Hare, Maple, Willow, Ash	
Tues	Lark, Robin, Sparrow, Dove, Mole, Squirrel, Hedgehog, Rowan, Hazel, Oak, Elm	Y4 swimming
Wed	Robin, Kingfisher, Starling, Owl, Fox, Squirrel, Rowan, Hazel, Oak, Ash	
Thurs	Dragonfly, Butterfly, Sparrow, Starling, Owl, Woodpecker, Dove, Hedgehog, Hare, Badger, Deer, Otter, Willow, Elm, Maple	
Fri	Bumblebee, Ladybird	

## EYFS

Thank you to all of the families that took part in our family learning sessions. We have received lots of positive feedback and we are looking forward to running more sessions for other families in the New Year. The children have worked so hard learning lots of songs for our Christmas nativity plays. I am sure you will agree that they were fantastic. Thank you for your support.



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## Sporting Events

The following children represented our school in a netball match against another local school winning 5–2, well done Team River Bank: Hayaa, Zainab, Kaja, Alisha, Aruba, Miriam and Maryam

## Winter Disco

A good time was had by all at our Winter Discos last week, the children thoroughly enjoyed socialising with their friends after school. Thank you to the staff who organised the event. We raised a fantastic £1,212.73 towards our fundraising project for a school mental health and well-being hub.

## Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Thank you for supporting this year's Poppy Appeal, we raised £209.02. In total Luton schools raised an incredible £13,855.82.

## School Council Update – What a Busy Month!

- **Festive Dining Hall:** We decorated the dining hall with our amazing **Christmas hoops** – they looked absolutely fabulous!
- **Student-Led Conference:** Three children attended the **Luton Student-Led Conference** at the University of Luton, where they discussed what matters most to them in Luton with children from across the town.
- **Cookie Sale Success:** We raised an incredible **£475** for our well-being hub through our cookie sale!
- **Christmas Jumper Day:** A fantastic **£440** was raised for the charity **Save the Children** through our annual Christmas Jumper Day.
- **Competition Winners:**
  - **KS1:** Rosie (Dove)
  - **Reception:** Amara (Dragonfly)
  - **KS2:** Liyana (Oak)

Please do look at our Facebook and X accounts for pictures of all the activities we have been up to! Thank you to everyone for your amazing support!

## Change of Details

If you change your contact details or address over the holidays or any other time, please don't forget to let the school office know so we can update your child's records.

## Dates for your Diary

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff training day – school closed to children
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Children return to school</b>
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Owl class assembly – parents welcome, 8:45am for a prompt 8:50am start
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 6 VR workshop
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Robin class assembly – parents welcome, 8:45am for a prompt 8:50am start
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Squirrel class assembly – parents welcome, 8:45am for a prompt 8:50 start
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Maple class assembly - parents welcome, 8:45am for a prompt 8:50 start

Spring's value of the half-term is DETERMINATION