



The Rivermead Round-Up

Friday 4th October

Dear parents/carers,

It has been another busy week for the children and staff at Rivermead, but much has been achieved.

This week:

Inclusion/SEND information session for parents/carers

Thank you to all the parents who attended, and we hope you found the sessions insightful, helpful and informative. A big thank you to Mrs Sloan for preparing, organising and delivering the session and Mrs Terry and Mrs Tomlin for their assistance and support of the session. We have two further information sessions for parents, both are after half term:

- Wednesday 6th November 9am: Maths - EYFS to Year 6.
- Wednesday 13th November 9am: Writing - Year 1 to Year 6

Guinness Book of World Records attempt

The children in Year 5 and year 6 on Thursday took part in an amazing experience to attempt to break a Guinness Book of World Records for the largest online poetry lesson. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged in this opportunity and enjoy learning more about poetry from a live author session. The children shared ideas with other children nationally through a virtual session, and at the end performed the poem brilliantly. Thank you to Miss Seymour for getting the school involved and organising the event within school. Thank you to all the Year 5 & Year 6 team - Miss Scott, Miss Inman and Miss Chapman for their support throughout the session and in the classroom.

BPET Safeguarding Audit

The school had a Safeguarding Audit this week by a BPET safeguarding consultant. We had a very positive outcome which we were very pleased about. It was noted the school follows procedures and process correctly and provide a safe environment for the children and secure site. The children commented to the consultant leading the audit that they felt safe and happy and know what to do and who to talk to if they have any concerns.

BPET SEND Showcase at Rivermead

Next week we are looking forward to holding a SEND/Inclusion showcase with the BPET schools, with many teachers, SENCo's and TAs from schools in the trust coming to see how we deliver parts of our SEND provision with a focus on speech and language.

Harvest assembly

Next Friday, 11th October, we will be holding a Harvest Assembly. As in past years, we are supporting the Woodley Food Bank and we are asking for food & product donations. Below is a list of items that the Food Bank is needing. We would appreciate any support you can offer, and we can start accepting and donations from Monday, which can be handed into the office or the children can take donations to their class teacher.

Any donation whether large or small will be gratefully received.

Tins

Soup
Fish (tuna only)
Tomatoes
Baked Beans
Meat
Rice Pudding
Sponge Pudding

Other items

Breakfast Cereals (medium boxes)
Chocolate/Snack bars
Biscuits
Toothpaste/deodorant
Sugar (500g packs)
Pasta Sauces (jars)
Olive Oil or Sunflower Oil
Sugar
Pasta, noodles, rice
Toilet Rolls
Beans, chickpeas
Toiletries, sanitary products

Drinks

Milk (Long Life/UHT)
Tea Bags (up to 80 bags)
Coffee (100g jars of instant)

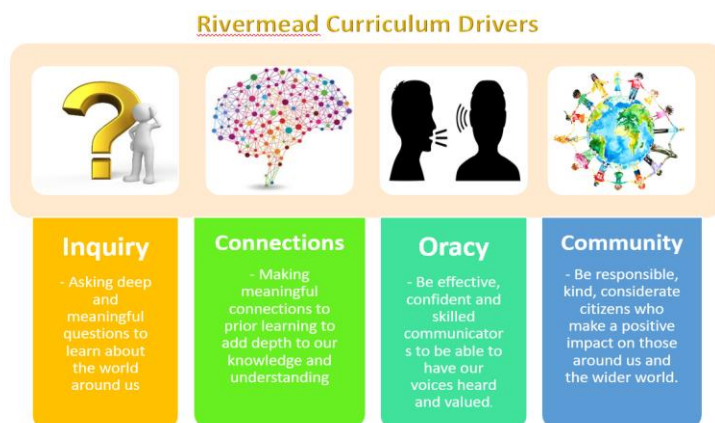
Fruit Juice (long life cartons)
Hot Chocolate
Squash (1 litre orange or blackcurrant)

The whole school will be part of an assembly on Friday afternoon where the children will be sharing artwork, poetry, thoughts and singing songs linked to Harvest. We will also be joined by representatives from the Food Bank who will be talking to the children about their role within the community of Woodley.

Thank you in advance for your support and we appreciate your donations to the schools Harvest Festival assembly.

Learning & Teaching – curriculum enrichment

Below is a summary of the highlights for each year group this week:



Lower School:

EYFS: The children in EYFS have continued with our topic 'All About Me.' We learned about parts of the body, focusing on legs, arms, chest, feet and hands and discussed what these body parts can do. The children have learnt about a positive growth mindset using the short film 'Piper' and were introduced to the growth mindset ladder. This inspired the children to complete a variety of challenges throughout the week including recognising initial sounds, representing numbers to three and using objects to create five. The children also learnt about Harvest Festival and we discussed which foods farmers grow, how foods are harvested and why we celebrate Harvest Festival.

Year 1: have had a lot of fun with their learning this week. A highlight for the children was listening to different poems about counting as part of National Poetry Day. We hope you enjoyed their pictures which were inspired by the poem 'Zany Zoo'. In our DT lessons, the children have been designing their own vehicle which they will be making in a couple of weeks' time. In our maths lessons, the children have been making connections between number families to understand that if $4 + 5 = 9$, then $9 = 4 + 5$. In our PE lessons, the children have been pretending to be pirates, practicing their balance and coordination skills. In our music lessons, the children have been using their oracy skills to help them understand pulse and rhythm. In Science, we have been continuing to look at seasons and have made an inquiry into the differences between winter and spring.

Year 2: This week Year 2 have loved celebrating National Poetry Day and its theme of 'Counting'. The children thought about how they fit into their family, community and school and wrote poems about how their voice matters. They used their oracy skills to construct their ideas and perform their poems. In Science they used their inquiry skills to look at properties of different materials and whether they can be stretched, squeezed or squashed. The children also noticed patterns and connections in maths when learning to count in 2s, 5s, 10s and 3s.

Year 3: What a fun and engaging week we've had in Year 3! The children have been busy exploring new topics and making great connections across their learning. In Maths, we've kicked off our topic on addition and subtraction, and the class has shown real teamwork and support for one another. It's been wonderful to see their community spirit shine as they work through problems together. We celebrated National Poetry day by writing poems about our voices, and developed our oracy skills as we shared our poems with each other. In PSHCE, we learned all about friendship conflicts and explored different ways to resolve them. The class discussed scenarios and practiced important skills to help build and maintain strong friendships. In Science, we started investigating different types of soil and discussing how different plants prefer different types of soil. The children asked excellent questions and showed curiosity in learning about the environment.

Upper School:

Year 4: Year 4 have had another busy week. We are loving our class book 'The Land of Roar' and enjoy any time we get to read it together. Some children have bought the book and are racing to finish it ahead of the class; thankfully, they

are not giving any spoilers to us! We are making the most of our library time and there have been a great number of children who are excited about changing their books each time we go down there. Maths this week has been exciting as we have changed our maths classes so some of us are getting taught by different teachers. We are now on our addition and subtraction unit and are having to use our connections driver to recall work learnt from last year and build on it this year. We are having a great time in French and are now about to hold a short conversation asking and answering the question of who or what is it.

Year 5: This week in Year 5, we have enjoyed using our Oracy driver to help us write in role of characters from our Master Readers book 'Cloud Busting.' We have also enjoyed working on our Community driver by exploring what is meant by religious freedom and understanding what this looks like in the world currently. In addition, we have been working on our Inquiry driver in science by designing our own experiments and using our working scientific skills to ensure we were conducting fair tests.

Year 6: This week in year 6 the children have enjoyed making connections between stories with trickster characters comparing both to our reading diet but also our wider knowledge of characterisation. We have developed a classic archetype for a trickster character to support our narrative writing next week. The children in Amazon class also enjoyed celebrating members of our class community when Sajani and Vaidhya shared their traditions of celebrating Navaratri. The children shared their knowledge and first-hand experiences whilst the class listened on and inquired into the celebrations further. In PE, the children have been working on their oracy driver by ensuring there are clear and concise instructions and communication passed between team members in a game set up. The children also took part in an incredible opportunity to attempt to break a Guinness Book of World Records for the largest online poetry lesson. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged and enjoying learning more about poetry from a live author session. The children shared ideas and performed the poem spectacularly.

Social Media & App – School’s concerns regarding children’s use of phones/devices outside of school hours

Each year we encounter various issues and concerns over children’s on-line, mobile and device use at home, with incidents then coming into school. Unfortunately, this week we have experienced situations where social media and various apps have been the vehicle for inappropriate behaviour and use of language by pupils outside of school hours. Whilst things are taking place off the school site and outside school hours, the resulting ‘fallout’ in these types of situations have major implications for relationships within school and a resulting negative impact on teaching and learning for the children.

Can we remind parents/carers that outside of the school day, the duty of care for the children is with parents/carers. It is difficult for the school to become involved in actions made by the children during these hours. Parents need to be aware that a phone purchased for a child is the legal responsibility of the parent/carer – this includes the parent/carer being responsible for the content on the phone and what is being sent. We are requesting support from home, for parents/carers to monitor the use of their child’s phone, the messages sent and what is looked at online. It is important to note, that if postings or messages are considered to be threatening or discriminatory then the Police may become involved, and they have the authority to seize mobile devices and contact service providers.

This is all to help keep the children safe.

Please be aware of the following restrictions on age for social media platforms/apps. All of the below are not legal for a child in primary school to have access to or be signed up for:

WhatsApp	age 16+	Instagram	age 13+	TikTok	age 13+
YouTube	age 13+	Facebook	age 13+		

Some useful websites to support families:

The [NSPCC online safety hub](#) provides guides and advice for parents.

[Internet Matters](#) offers practical tips, as well as expert support to help keep children safe online.

[Childnet’s parent page](#) provides resources and toolkits for parents.

If you have concerns that your child might be on the receiving end of hurtful social media posts, or playing a part themselves, please talk to the school in the first instance and we may be able to seek additional advice and support as required.

REMINDERS:

SEND parent/teacher consultations

The dates for SEND consultations:

- Thursday 17th October - face-to-face meetings

Parent/teacher consultations.

Dates for the consultations:

- Face-to-face meetings: Tuesday 22nd October
- Virtual meetings: Wednesday 23rd October

Although we are having days allocated to face-to-face and virtual, if a class has been all booked out on a day for either virtual or face-to-face, we will attempt to give you your preferred style on the other day.

Learning reviews

The dates for the 'Learning Reviews' for the Autumn Term:

- EYFS: Monday 25th November
- Year 1: Tuesday 26th November
- Year 2: Wednesday 27th November
- Year 3: Thursday 28th November
- Year 4: Monday 2nd December
- Year 5: Tuesday 3rd December
- Year 6: Wednesday 4th December

Autumn Term dates:

Half term: Monday 28th October – Friday 21st November

INSET day: The school will be closed on Monday 4th November for an INSET day. This is the first day after the October half term.

End of term: 1.30pm, Friday 20th December

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Mr Brian Prebble

PTA

We had an amazing weekend in the school garden! There was lots of digging, turf moving, vegetable bed building, compost moving and shed painting.

We are very grateful to all the parents and grandparents who came to help, but especially Azaan (EYFS), Fred (year 1), Freya (year 2), Lawrence (year 3), Max and Tommy (year 4) and Isaac and James (year 5) who all worked incredibly hard.

Look out for more opportunities during the year to improve the school grounds for everyone.



Recycle litter and rubbish - Dolly



Achievements

Please forward details to Mrs Nicóla (jnicola@rivermead.wokingham.sch.uk) of your child's achievements in their activities outside of school for inclusion in future editions of the Round Up. This week we would like to say well done to the following children:



EYFS Growth Mind Set Ladder

We are pleased to mention the following children in EYFS who have tried their best, worked hard and reached number 10 on the Growth Mindset Ladder

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This week's class star

We are pleased to mention the following children who have worked hard and have achieved a class star certificate:

Lower school's class star

Aurora	Emmbrook	for her beautiful writing and her creative and lovely ideas! Well done :)
Franklin	Kennet	for his determination and perseverance in school. He tries so hard in his lessons and shows great enthusiasm in phonics in particular. Well done Franklin!
Alfie	Hart	for writing a brilliant set of instructions about how to play hide and seek to help out a friendly alien.
Ethan	Thames	for his beautiful poem he wrote on National Poetry Day. He used all his writing skills and creative flair to create a masterpiece. Fantastic!

Evie	Avon	for having a positive start to each day and for making me smile. You have been absolutely amazing with your contributions in your class and for your phenomenal learning attitude.
Jasmine	Severn	for showing amazing perseverance in Maths! Even when faced with a tricky new concept, Jasmine didn't give up and worked really hard to understand it.

Upper school's class star

Zane	Trent	for challenging himself both in class and with his homework. I can see your hard work and determination and am very excited to see your growth this year.
Macy	Mersey	for always having a positive attitude to learning, challenging herself and being an excellent role model to others.
Charlotte and lo	Nile	for showing such creativity by writing their own poems at home. They were inspired by our poetry focus this week and are aspiring to be published poets!
Marnie	Congo	for showing determination and a positive learning attitude, particularly in reading. You impressed me with your answers - well done!
Albe	Amazon	for consistently challenging yourself and seeking feedback on how to improve. You are always working hard independently and with your learning partner showing a clear desire to learn. You are a true role model for learning behaviors. Keep it up!
Izaan	Yangtze	for always trying his best with all aspects of learning. I can really see the effort that he puts into his work. Keep up the good work!

Letters sent home

SEND autumn 2024 parent/teacher consultation

Sent 03.10.24

Booking system closes 13.10.24 9am

Notices

Please remember that **Rivermead is a nut free school**. Please do not add any nut products into your child's snacks or packed lunches. We have children with nut allergies in our school and we would like to keep everyone as safe as possible. This includes any Nutella products.

2024-2025 Diary Dates

(Please note these are subject to change)

Information and details will be sent closer to the time regarding the various events during the term

Date	Event	Notes
15 th October	PTA AGM	*New*
17 th October	SEND Parent/teacher consultations Face to face	Bookings will open Thursday 3 rd October
22 nd October	Parent/teacher consultations Face to face	Bookings will open Tuesday 8 th October
23 rd October	Parent/teacher consultations Virtual meetings	Bookings will open Tuesday 8 th October
28 th October – 1 st November	Autumn half term	
4 th November	Inset day	
6 th November	Parent information session - Maths Year 1 – Year 6	9am – Small hall
13 th November	Parent information session – Writing Year 1- Year 6	9am – Small hall
19 th November	Year 6 Child measurement programme	*New*
22 nd November	School Disco	*New* - Please contact the PTA for information
25 th November	Learning review	EYFS
26 th November	Learning review	Year 1
27 th November	Learning review	Year 2
28 th November	Learning review	Year 3
2 nd December	Learning review	Year 4
3 rd December	Learning review	Year 5
4 th December	Learning review	Year 6
20 th December – 3 rd January	Christmas break	
6 th January	Inset day	