

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 18th December 2020

Welcome

There has been a real festive feel in school this week; we have had to do things a little differently this year but we were keen that the children should not miss out on their Christmas experiences. Reception recorded their Nativity to share with the parents/carers and the children did a great job! The other children chose a Christmas song to share with you - enjoy! They have also been busy making cards and calendars and a special guest even managed to join virtually and leave presents for the children! A huge thank you to all of the children and the staff for making it special.

We do have some goodbyes to make today: first to Ms Webster who is retiring after 20 years working in our kitchen and second to Mr Gilmour. We thank you for your hard work, dedication and commitment to Rivers and wish you luck in your next chapter.

As you will have seen, the builders have now left the site and the space is now ours. Over the next year the open space will be developed (and hopefully less muddy!) This does mean that we will be changing our entrances and exits. Please see the additional letter detailing this for January.

Please continue to protect our school community by following the COVID guidelines over the Christmas period.

Walsall Public Health update - Tier 3 local restrictions – Very High Alert

Following the national government tier review that took place yesterday, Walsall continues to remain in the Tier 3, Very High Alert Level. Although there has been a gradual reduction in Walsall residents testing positive for coronavirus over the past few weeks this does not mean that we should become complacent. Please ensure you continue to follow guidelines set.

Testing positive over the Christmas period - Reminder

If your child develops symptoms up to and including Sunday 20th December (48 hours after last attending school) and they test positive for COVID-19, you must contact Mrs Wright by Class Dojo as soon as possible so we can identify any children and staff that may need to self-isolate. If any children are required to self-isolate, we will contact you by Dojo. Mrs Wright will check Dojo daily up to and including Christmas Eve.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 having developed symptoms from Monday, 21st December onwards, you do not need to contact the school, but should follow the advice given by NHS Test and Trace.

Finally, I would just like to say a huge thank you to you for your support during this term. I know it has been a very different term and some of you have had concerns regarding returning to school safely but our children have continued to shine! Have a lovely Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Attendance

This week's attendance: 87.6%

A huge well done to the 171 children who have met our academy target of 97% for this term!

Curriculum

Children have had a festive theme to their curriculum this week. Children across Key stages 1 and 2 have been making cards, calendars and Christmas decorations, as well as recording their Christmas song which they cannot wait to share with you!

Year Group Focus: Nursery

This week, the nursery had a visit from Jack Frost! When they came into school, they noticed that their carpet was covered in snow and hiding in the snow was a book called *Jack Frost*. Jack Frost froze some of the winter animals in nursery but the children enjoyed exploring the ice and saving the animals. Also, the children have been busy baking gingerbread men biscuits. They were delicious!



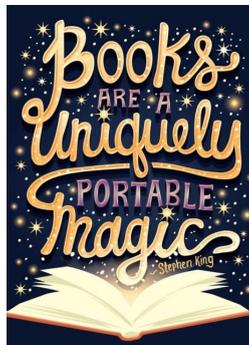
Rivers Love to Read

Reader's of the week:

Aqram LB	102,701
Eloane B	66,296
Ryan F	65,935
Yoan B	60,804
Liarni J	57,047

Class Leaderboard:

Class	Words Read This Year
Fuji	5,767,170
Amazon	3,128,413
Tiber	666,593
Foyle	262,031
Clyde	245,945
Hvita	219,417
Kuma	278,840



Times Table Rockstars

Congratulations to the following children for improving their rockstar status. They will receive a certificate next week. Please make sure that your child is logging onto Time Table Rock Stars.



A special shout out to Elizabeth in Tiber who is the first child at Rivers ever to gain Rock Hero status!!!

Rock Hero (< 1 sec)	Rock Legend (< 2 secs)	Rock Star (< 3 secs)	Headliner (< 4 secs)
Elizabeth N (Tiber)	Tyler W (Tiber) Eva Rae S (Tiber) Lacey S (Amazon)	Lexie S (Tiber) Martyna C (Foyle) Esmee Joy S (Tiber)	Millie-Mae M (Tiber) Ruben B (Clyde) Dominik B (Hvita) Tyler Ajuti (Tiber) Evie M (Tiber) Angel (Foyle)
Breakthrough Artist (< 6 secs)	Unsigned Act (< 7 secs)	Gigger (< 8 secs)	Wannabe (10 logins)

Aren A (Hvita) Eloane B (Hvita)	Harvey J (Tiber)	Jasmine F (Fuji)	Mason S (Clyde) Eva P (Clyde) Dolcie L (Clyde) Daisy M (Clyde)
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TIMES TABLE OF THE WEEK!

If you know one of these facts, what other facts can you work out?

$3 \times 9 = 27$

27						
3	3	3	3	3	3	3

$27 \div 3 = ?$



How many ways can you represent each fact?

$9 \times 3 = 27$

27		
9	9	9

$27 \div 9 = ?$

Safeguarding

There are many reasons why children should not be playing outside without adult supervision over the Christmas holidays and exploitation is a very real danger in Walsall.

It is likely you have heard the term ‘County Lines’ used in the media, a term used to describe how gangs and organised criminal networks export illegal drugs into other areas by exploiting children and vulnerable adults, often without them realising it. Gang members may use coercion, intimidation, violence and weapons to do this.

We want to support parents and carers to keep children safe; listed below are some warning signs of ‘County Lines’ exploitation for you to look out for in primary-aged children:

- Returning home late, staying out all night or going missing
- Being found in areas away from home
- Being secretive about who they are talking to and where they are going
- Unexplained absences from school
- Unexplained money, phone(s), clothes or jewellery
- Increasingly disruptive or aggressive behaviour.

If you have any concerns about your child, speak to them calmly and explain the risks and consequences. You may wish to contact a member of the Pastoral Team at school if you feel you need support or believe your child is at risk. We can talk through your concerns and plan a way forward together. If you or your child are aware that other young people in school or the community are at risk of ‘County Lines’ or any criminal exploitation, you should contact the police directly via 101. Alternatively you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org. If a crime is taking place or a life is in danger, call 999 immediately.

Celebrations

The Most Improved pupil award for this term.

Trent: Kniko T
Avon: Mohammed S
Thames: Mazie W
Severn: Faith C
Foyle: Lewis J
Clyde: Talitha-Jae S
Tiber: Mariah W
Hvita: Preston J
Fuji: Tigi S
Kuma: Archie H
Amazon: Kaylan K

Diary dates

School re opens on Monday 4th January