



Newsletter

Issue 35

October 2024



Here we are into Autumn already and Term 1 almost at an end. It never ceases to amaze me how quickly time passes. We have all been very busy here at Riverbank this term, providing excellent learning opportunities and sharing with you all as we go along.

Homework

As communicated with you previously our new format for homework has launched on Showbie. This is in direct response to consultation with the school community. We will monitor this over the coming weeks and we will get your feedback on it at Parent's Evening in November.





Let's all try to live our school values of

Love



Equality

Creativity

Kindness

Ready

Our Vision is to create a welcoming, happy ethos where all of our children feel safe and nurtured. Riverbank should be a place where everyone is respected for who they are and where they are from. We will offer learning opportunities that are creative, uses our outdoor spaces and that are inclusive to all in order to raise attainment at every level. We truly believe that our school community - staff, pupils and parents - are one big family and we aim to support each other and build each other up at every opportunity.

Staffing

We are saying farewell to Ms Stewart who has been our English as an Additional Language teacher this term as she is reducing her working hours. We thank her for supporting our EAL children.

Ms Jarrett is currently absent from school and Miss Stirling is covering her absence. Welcome to her.

A warm welcome to Miss Okwume who is our new Support for Learning Worker. Our children and staff have already made her feel so welcome and we are

very pleased to have her as part of the team.

Miss Bulloch (SfLW) has been absent all of this term due to a bereavement and we hope to welcome her back after the October Week.

As you are aware, due to Glasgow City Council cuts to teaching staff we have been reduced by 0.8 (4 days of a teacher) staff this session. In January of this year schools were asked to predict what we think our roll would be for August to allow the council to allocate staff. Unfortunately our predictions fell short and

we will absorb a further 0.6 (3 days per week of a teacher) teaching post. We will manage this as best we can however please bear with us as it may take longer for us to get back to you when dealing with queries. Your patience and understanding is appreciated.

Uniform

A reminder that our uniform is navy blue jumper/cardigan, grey trousers/shorts/skirt, white shirt, school tie and black shoes. On gym days a white polo shirt may be worn.

Tartan dresses, grey jumpers and white trainers are not part of the uniform and should not be worn to school. Please help us to uphold our uniform policy and show how proud we are to belong to the Riverbank family. Remember you can order uniform from www.schoolwearmadeeasy.com All school ties will also be available to purchase from here too.

Please ensure all school clothing has names on them. We already have a collection of un-named clothing built up in the school.

Parent Pay

Please continue to pre-select your child's meal each night/morning for the day/week ahead. This helps reduce time spent in classes doing this. The new menus for meal selection are also available on our website.

Please ensure you have signed up to Parent Pay as all monies needed for school will be paid via here – as well as registration for after school clubs.

Parent Portal

Please ensure you have signed up for Parent Portal. This is the online platform where you will register for Parents' Evenings and where school consent forms will be issued.

Parent's Evening

As per our school calendar which was shared with you in August and is on Parent Portal, our Parent's Evening will take place on Thursday 14th November from 3:15pm. Appointments will be available to book through Parent Portal – clerical staff will inform you when the time comes. As above please ensure you are signed up for this – if you need help please contact the school office.

Communication

Involving our families in our learning is hugely important to us. Class assemblies, open afternoons, report cards, Twitter X, homework etc are all part of our school calendar.

Online Safety

A reminder that social media is, on the whole, not suitable for primary school aged children. Any matters relating to social media outwith school will be referred back to parent/carers to manage. Please ensure monitoring of devices as appropriate in order to keep children safe from harm.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

For all Child Protection concerns Mr Hynes remains the Child Protection Coordinator so please contact him if you have a concern. In his absence please contact Mrs Whyte.

Healthy Choices

Please ensure you give your child healthy options at snack time. A small packet of crisps along with some fruit or a small chocolate bar is fine in moderation. At

no point should a child have a full-size tube of crisps or full-size chocolate bars.

Please note that take away food is not a suitable option for lunch times and is not allowed for pupils.

Water is the only drink allowed in classrooms. No diluting juice or fizzy drinks should be in water bottles. Our Oral Health nurse Elena has noticed a number of our children had juice last year and has urged us to share this message with you all. Our Junior Leadership Team will work on this over the course of the year in partnership with our Parent Council to ensure we have a policy to take forward. On this note we have been fortunate to receive a grant for £9000 to purchase fruit and veg weekly from Tesco to work towards more healthy choices at snack times. More information on this will come home after the October Holidays.

End of Day

If you have more than one child at the school please arrange with the older sibling about which gate you will collect them both from. This means the older sibling can collect the younger sibling and then go

to the gate you are waiting at.

Please ensure dogs are kept away from school gates at all times.

P7 Fundraising

Our P7 class will be fundraising for their Leaver's Hoodies next term. They will be organising the following activities:

1st Nov – staff car wash

22nd Nov – cake and smoothie café for pupils

Christmas fayre - stall

Open Afternoons

Thank you for your attendance at our open afternoons. It is always great to see you engaging with your children in their classrooms. Thanks also for your feedback on these sessions. While most feedback was very positive we had some points to think about for future.

- Some of you said you could not sit down during the session as the classroom was very busy. Next time we will encourage families to use available space in open areas to mitigate this

- Some of you asked for it to be made clearer that you did not have to wait the full allotted time. We will also make this clear moving forward.
- Some of you commented on the difficulty of going between classes when you have more than one child. This is challenging to address however my advice is to either split the time in half to see both/all children or attend one open afternoon for one child and another for the other child.

Your feedback is important to us. Thank you for your engagement.

Mobile Phones

A new mobile phone policy has been shared with all families. This comes into effect from Monday October 21st. Thank you for your support with this.

Outdoors

At Riverbank our children will be outdoors in all weathers. A bit of rain does not prevent us from having fun! Children should come to school dressed appropriately for Scottish weather. A rain jacket with a hood is essential. The only time children will not be

outdoors is when there is a risk to life e.g. high winds, lightning etc. Outdoor Learning is a priority for us here and we have invested in waterproofs for children at all stages. Thank you for your support with this.

Attendance

As you can see from the table below we have taken the attendance figures at the end of August and the end of September. With the exception of our P5 year group attendance has fallen at all other stages. This gives me cause for concern. I know you will be aware that poor attendance leads to poor academic outcomes. Every school day counts. I have spoken with a number of individual parents about this already to offer support. We will continue to monitor this and share data with you. Where we see issues we will intervene and offer support when necessary.

P7 families in particular please ensure all children are in school at all times. P7 is a very important year for children in terms of transition to high school and the exciting activities that brings. I would hate for them to miss out on wonderful opportunities.

	Aug 24	Sept 24
P1	97.9%	97.3%
P2	93%	91.8%
P3	95%	91.2%
P4	91.8%	90.9%
P5	93.6%	93.6%
P6	94.7%	88.9%
P7	97.4%	87.9%

Parking

Parking around our school at 3pm remains a big issue. I have observed this and unfortunately it is a small group of parents/carers who choose to park on the pavement along Sunnybank Street. This is not acceptable as the road is already very narrow and has a traffic calming structure in place that impacts the flow of traffic. These poor parking choices are leading to safety concerns and frustrations from other drivers. I have liaised with our Community Police Officers on this and they have assured me they will be present on a more regular basis. Please consider the safety of others and especially our children. Thank you for your support.

Parent Council

We are very fortunate at Riverbank to be supported by a great Parent Council. We are always looking to add members to this so if

you think you can help in any way please contact them on riverbankparentcouncil@gmail.com. Our next meeting dates are:

Tues 19th Nov at The Jennyburn

Tues 28th Jan (online)

Tues 11th March (in school)

Tues 13th May (online)

All meetings start at 6:30pm.

Our parent Council discos for the year ahead are on the following dates:

Halloween Discos - Tues 29th Oct

Christmas Discos – Weds 11th Dec

Spring Discos – Weds 2nd Apr

Summer Discos – Thurs 19th June

All discos have the following start/finish times

P1-3 6pm-6:50pm

P4-7 7pm-8pm

As always an adult must collect all children from discos. We ask that a donation of £2 per child is brought on the night, but everyone is welcome to come along. Cost will be £2 per child. A small snack and

a drink will be provided. No mobile phones are allowed into the school hall In these events.

As always if there is anything we can help with please get in touch at the office.

Mr Hynes