

End of half term Newsletter

Enjoy the Half-term!

It feels like this has been an incredibly long half term so we're all looking forward to next week and a well earned rest; we hope you are too! Thank you so much for bearing with us as we deal with the (still!) ever changing situation with Covid-19: reading our letters, digesting the advice and helping do your bit at home as well. We appreciate that it can be frustrating that we're still talking about this with you now.

The big difference is that it isn't affecting the children's learning by disrupting whole classes through closure—which feels even better when the local picture still seems concerning. So, it seems fitting that this newsletter gives you a glimpse of what's been happening in the classroom and lets the teachers celebrate the children themselves.

Also, we built a sandpit last year for the incoming



Year 3 children (even though many cautioned about the cats in the area), but due to the fence across the playground, they never got to use it. Well, hopefully you can see from the photo above that's not the case anymore with our current Year 3 children. In case you're wondering, they called this structure the Great Wall of Riverside—whether it can also be seen from the Moon remains to be proven.

It's a great resource which bonds the children across the different year groups.

Finally, two of our staff, Jane and Mrs Munton, completed the Yorkshire Marathon last Sunday in York — not only was that an amazing achievement in itself, they were both raising money for great causes. If you



want to donate and support their causes follow these links:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jane-boardman4>

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jane-boardman5>

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Lindsey-Hoyle3>

Take care and see you in November.



Diary Dates

Monday 1st November: Back to school

Wednesday 10th of November: Parental Anxiety Workshop (Years 3/4) 6-7pm on Zoom—details to follow

Thursday 11th of November: Parental Anxiety Workshop (Years 5&6) 5-6pm on Zoom—details to follow

Week beginning Monday the 6th of December—Parent consultations*

Wednesday 15th of December/ Thursday the 16th of December—Christmas Show @ the Little Theatre*

Friday the 17th of December—Christmas celebration and carols at the Hope Baptist Church (time tbc)*

* to be determined if in person or virtual nearer the time

<https://riverside-junior-school.secure-primariesite.net/>



Our children are passionate about the environment and now that we have a school suggestion/ideas box in Riverside, they've put that passion to good use.

One suggestion that dropped in recently was for us to consider Meat Free Mondays in schools and we have to say, that idea is very much in tune with how we feel about our role as the main providers of school dinners in the valley.

After talking with our amazing Catering Manager Cheryl, who got straight on board, we have decided to start doing this from next half term!

So from November 1st and from every Monday onwards, the children will have a choice of two vegetarian options for dinner. Even though it might seem like a small step, cutting back on consumption of meat has long been a theory as to how we can each play our part helping the environment.

If you're interested in how one day a week vegetarian can help, click on this link <https://meatfreemondays.com/why-it-matters/>.



Halloween and Bonfire Night Safety

Our local Community Support Team—PC Nick (sure there’s a joke there somewhere) and PC Graham—visited the school to talk about how the children can keep safe if attending Halloween or Bonfire Night activities.

Lots of advice was given out but the main points were:

- **Only knock on doors that advertise they want trick or treating**
- **Take care crossing the roads in costume**
- **How to safely handle sparklers**
- **Not to approach fireworks that have not gone off**
- **Safety around bonfires**

It was a very useful session for the children to hear, especially as for some of them, this might be the first time they’re taking part in such festivities.

Good morning 6C! **Noggle!**

On white boards, try to reach your target number using these numbers:

15	2	10
6	5	1
8	3	4

Target: 4567, 3080

Future Countdown Champ?

Every morning in 6C Miss Christou puts up a number challenge for the children to tackle—which is shown above.

This particular one stumped me, and I like to think I am particularly good at maths. Therefore, I confidently announced no one could make 4567 using each number only once. That was, until Otis did it. This impressed and annoyed me in equal measure! See if you can find the same route he did—good luck!

Brightening up the school!

We recently were contacted by the Oxfam shop asking if we’d like to receive some art created by Kate Lycett they were no longer using. As Kate is a parent at the school (and a very talented artist) we jumped at the chance,

Thanks to Mr Clayton and his drill you can admire these works in our reception—and welcome they are too on these wet days!



Football triumph!

On Wednesday the 20th of October Riverside took a team of 10 children to compete in a friendly league against Scout Road Academy, Old Town and Wainstalls Primary school.

Three games were scheduled of two six minute halves, and we started with a huge 6-0 victory against Old Town. Goals were shared around the team but a particular highlight was Dylan's left foot volley from Leo's pinpoint cross.



Up next we play Scout Road, who packed the middle of the field, causing a lot of head scratching as to how to get around them. Thanks to a powerful opening strike from Otis, we went on to a comfortable 2-0 win.

Up last were Wainstalls, who had also won their two games, making this a final. Evenly matched, this proved a tight game, with Wainstalls helped by a superb keeper who kept out at least two shots you would have bet your house on. Finally, Otis popped up again to nab the only goal of the game making Riverside not only the outright winners of the league, but the only team not to concede a goal!

More tournaments are scheduled and I've appealed for a B team as so many children want to play—but well done Riverside this time out!



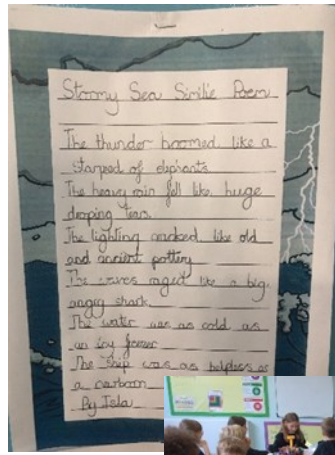
Individual triumph!

From a team triumph to a tale of an individual who really went the extra distance last weekend. Lilah recently joined the school from Hebden Royd but she's taken no time at all to make an impact. She's already represented the school at cross country, but she's impressed us all with how well she's settled in.

We were delighted to hear of her fund raising for Cancer Research last weekend by participating in Get Muddy 5k—which basically means running 5 kilometres through mud, water, obstacles—anything to make your life difficult.

Like most, Lilah knows people in her family who have been affected by cancer, and she managed to raise nearly £200 to help fight this disease and we couldn't be more proud of her! Maybe it's a marathon next...talk to Mrs Munton and Jane about that!





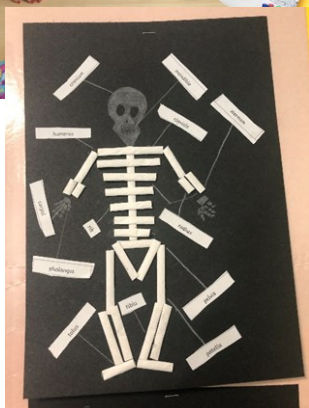
3/4MT! (Mrs Main/Mrs Taylor)

We have had a brilliant first half term in 3/4TM! It has been lovely getting settled back in to school and getting to know one another as well as learning about some fascinating new topics. Recently we have completed some beautiful art pictures to welcome refugees to Calderdale.

A highlight of our half term has been reading and doing some writing based on the book *Pugs of the Frozen North*. We have written some fantastic diary entries as well as a newspaper report. We enjoyed doing lots of drama and acting in role as the different characters.

Our Science topic this half term was animals including humans where we looked closely at the functions and purposes of our skeletons and muscles. We closely compared our skeletons to other animals and discovered skeletons are not all the same. We identified animals with endoskeletons, exoskeletons and hydrostatic skeletons and sorted them groups naming pros and cons of each type.

We have really enjoyed experimenting with different brass instruments in our brass lessons this half term. We've been able to use some different brass instruments such as the trumpet, the baritone and the trumpet and compare the types of sound they make.





3/4H! (Miss Holmes)

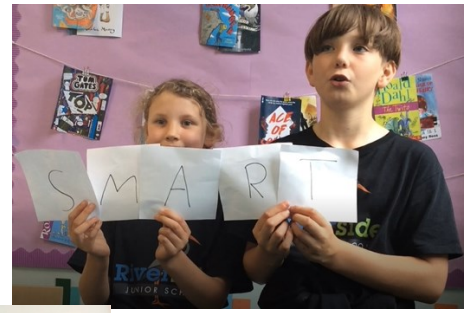
What a wonderful start to the year we have had! We have had so much fun and the learning has been unbelievably impressive. From learning about skeletons and digging up the Shang Dynasty to getting muddy at Forest School and learning a new instrument, we certainly have been incredibly busy.

A highlight of our half term has been learning all about The Shang Dynasty. We have gone back in time studying ancient artefacts which have told us about how this great civilisation lived. Taking part in an archaeological dig and presenting our findings was very exciting and we loved creating our own Shang cities. Check out our incredible display full of wonderful homemade creations produced by our class!

We have been lucky enough to have music lessons this half term where we have been learning how to play the recorder. We have really enjoyed learning lots of different tunes and we are so proud of our new skill!

Finally, Forest School has been a blast. It has been a wonderful opportunity to connect with our new peers and we have engaged in lots of exciting team building activities such as den building, weaving and games! Though the rain fell for many of our sessions, we certainly didn't let that stop our fun! We have already formed a wonderful class and we are so excited for what's to come. Here is our rainbow which we think shows community, friendship and hope for a great year ahead.

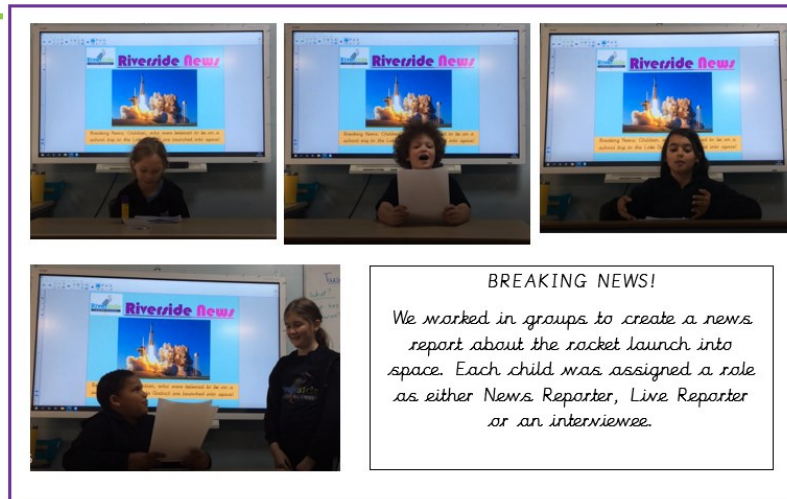




Year 5—joint pages from Mrs Munton and Miss Smethurst

Well it has been a jam packed half term for Year 5, I think it is fair to say that we are all happy to be back! We have thoroughly enjoyed our English text 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell Boyce, the children have produced some excellent pieces of learning and have engaged well in many drama activities.

In Science we have been learning about our Solar System through many fun practical activities, helping us understand planetary scales and time zones across the world.





Year 5 continued...

We have started music lessons this term learning about beat, rhythm and pitch and studying Bon Jovi! All of the children have been learning Rugby skills from Coach Kris for our outdoor PE lesson and we have seen some great progress.

5S have been extremely lucky to have swimming lessons this half term too, it has been lovely to see everyone grow in confidence and show so much progress in our weekly sessions! We were fortunate enough to have some art specialist workshops where the children learnt how to use ink and created some pictures in response to a stimulus.

Finally, we have been thoroughly impressed with the children's efforts to produce projects at home in line with our learning around our history topic the Ancient Maya!





6J (Miss Jenkins)

Our first half term has been dominated by one event we've been anticipating since the beginning of last year: the residential! We're happy to say that the trip went swimmingly and was enjoyed by all who attended. From the zipline to Jacob's ladder, Year Six proved themselves to be bold and brilliant and tackled new experiences with confidence and tenacity.

Back in the classroom, we have been learning about the Ancient Greeks – working towards answering our big question 'why are the Ancient Greeks still relevant today?'. 'Odysseus' has been our class text for the half term and we have honed our letter writing skills by writing in character.

We were also excited to participate in sculpture workshops with Miss Doty, a resilience lesson with Alice from YoungMinds and learn about Refugee week for which we created poetry and freeze frames.





6C (Miss Christou)

Year 6 have had a wonderful start to the autumn term – the much anticipated residential took place and it is safe to say that everyone had a fantastic time. Pupils challenged themselves, facilitated others to challenge themselves and showed an incredible level of maturity and resilience. Even the group leaders at Winmarleigh Hall commented on the positive attitudes and buoyancy of the children. As a teaching staff we were super proud of all them and loved representing Riverside Junior School outside of the classroom.

Back in the classroom, this half term has been jam-packed with lots of learning about Ancient Greeks and in line with this we have been reading *The Adventure of Odysseus*. The children have created freeze-frames and roles on the wall, looking into the characteristics of the protagonist and his family – this resulted in some beautiful letter writing and fabulous creative writing of their own!

Additionally, the children have taken part in a sculpture workshop with Miss Doty over a few weeks and OpenMinds came to deliver a workshop about resilience in the transition to high school. What a busy half-term!

