



December Newsletter

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!

If you happened to be dropping off your child on Thursday the 1st of December, you would have heard Christmas music playing in the playground to welcome the children in—there was even an impromptu conga line forming, which certainly was a surprise!

This is a time of year quite special in primary schools, and children are busy preparing and practising for the Christmas production of A Christmas Carol at the Little Theatre. If you haven't already grabbed a ticket, head on down to the office as we have lots of availability.

We're also looking forward to hosting our first ever Carol Concert at the Hope Baptist Church on the last day of the year, Friday the 16th. The church is an amazing space, and the anticipation of hearing the whole Federation singing together is already giving me goosebumps. We've allocated 100 tickets for family members to come and watch, as we're restricted by fire regulations, and those tickets (one per family) are on a first come, first served basis, from each school's office.

Finally, a HUGE thank you to the amazing effort put into creating our second Federation Christmas Fayre! It was wonderful to see so many people at the three schools and the money raised will prove invaluable in helping the schools invest in more learning experiences and opportunities for our wonderful children—we can't thank you enough.

Keep a look out for another newsletter celebrating all the learning that's happened this half term before Friday, but until then, enjoy some highlights of the Christmas Fayre overleaf, and a feature on two magnificent runners who represented Riverside proudly in a recent cross country event.

Diary Dates

December 14th (Wednesday) and 15th (Thursday) morning and afternoon—Riverside Christmas Shows @ the Little Theatre 9.30am or 1.30pm
(lots of tickets still available from the office)

Friday the 16th of December—Christmas Celebration at the Hope Baptist Church 10.30 -11.30am
(limited to 50 tickets at Riverside)

School closed for Christmas from Friday the 16th until Wednesday, January the 4th.

Twitter Feed

We're now up to 85 followers, which is great, but in order to hit minor celebrity status, we need more of you to sign up, not least to gain an insight into the day-to-day experiences of the children and our brilliant teachers @HebFed1



Christmas Fayre 2022!

What an amazing event we had on Saturday morning across the three schools—there were raffle prizes galore; Santa's Grotto; Tombola; Choir singing and lots more!

It was an amazing event, that could only happen with the hard work from our parents associations FORs and FOSS, plus, all the amazing staff who took time out of their weekends to attend and jolly up sales.

Last year we raised just under £3000 and we're hoping to match this again, as all of this money is put back into the schools. Thank you so much for the support you put into the school...we really appreciate it!



Cross Country Stars!

Cross country is an amazing sport and part of Riverside's commitment to providing children with out of school experiences means quite often through the year, we take a mob of runners to Mytholmroyd to compete against other school in the HX7 postcode.

Every now and then, a couple of out-and-out natural talents emerge, and two such individuals in E and M (both Year 6) recently competed in Halifax against other schools from Calderdale, and did rather well.

I sat down with them both to find out what running a cross country race is like, why they do it, and what they think it is about them that helps them perform so successfully.

Where did you race and what was it like?

M: We were racing at Halifax across fields and it was very cold! If we did well in this race we qualified for the West Yorkshire Championships.

E: There were about 70 children in each race in a long huddle.

What's it like?

E: It's really cramped so you have to have your elbows out or you get squished!

M: You've got to be near the front and on the whistle, you go!

How about when the race starts?

E: It's freezing cold, especially my arms and as you're running uphill and downhill you get a stitch. I try and talk to people as I pass them -

M: - You do?

E: Yeah, I say hi but people don't talk back to me.

What's the worst part of the race and what's your approach?

M: For me it's the finish, as everyone is jumping for the line and wants a medal. But when I run, I tell myself not to think about being scared. Don't overthink it.

I also like to lead from the front as being first means I can keep calm.





How about you E?

E: I don't like the start as I'm nervous and don't know what's going to happen but I just focus on thinking, 'I'm going to do it!'

I want to run and see how far I can go.

So where did you finish?

E: **Third!** I was only a few metres off the first place but some of those girls were huge!

M: I finished **second**. It would have been first but I stumbled in a ditch towards the end and got overtaken. I reckon I've got him next time though for sure!

Why do you run?

M: It keeps me fit and it's way more competitive than team sports.

E: I think it's really fun and you get to make new friends.

Why do you think you are so good at it?

E: I practise a lot with my mum and dad. Where we live there's a track called Sheep Stones which is about 6km long and I run that often, sometimes on a Friday morning before school.

M: I do lots of physical activity like swimming on a Monday and fell running on Tuesday. Also, my mental physicality is strong—I think I'm going to win!

Where do you think you'll finish in the West Yorkshire race?

M: I want top 5 at least.

E: Top 10 for me—or just to cross the finish line!





Year 4 speak to the Mayor on climate!

It's fair to say Goldfinch class have been inspired by their learning on climate change, and its focus on the Arctic. They have been so energized, that Ms Holmes decided to tap into that and tasked them with writing a persuasive speech that would be delivered to a figure of authority who could have an impact on the environment in their lifetime.

Now, budgets wouldn't stretch to sending them out to Egypt and Cop 27, but we managed to get them an audience with the nearest, next best option: the Mayor of Hebden Royd herself!

On top of that, the children got to visit the Town Council Chambers and also met with Rachel Lightbird the recently appointed Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Co-Ordinator.

Four speakers were selected, which proved a very difficult task, and they were passionate, persuasive and inspiring! They even got to wear the gold chains!

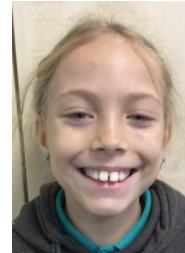
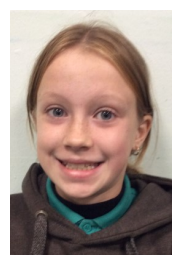


Year 6 school leaders

A big part of Year 6 is taking on a leadership role as part of our commitment to children's Personal Development.

We created five leadership roles: Playground Leaders; Kitchen Committee; Anti-Bullying Ambassadors; Librarians and a School Leaders Team. For each role we asked the children to write a letter of application (we take it very seriously of course and there was a rigorous recruitment process!) and then we made sure they all had their first choice role, with some children taking on two roles so that each team had enough children to run successfully.

Finally, using money raised from clubs, we purchased coloured lanyards for each role to encourage a sense of ownership and pride. This is something we'll continue each year moving forwards, so if you'd like to learn a little about what your child will experience in Year 6, please read on!



Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

This was a new role this year, which we were keen to bring into the leadership roles, as we don't tolerate bullying at Riverside, and this subject inspires children's sense of justice and fairness.

Our ABAs received training through the scheme funded by the Diana Award at Bolton and are aiming to earn four badges for the school through their work on Diversity, Online Safety, Community and Well-Being.

They also are available on different days in the playground to help children settle problems, as often advice from a peer is a great role model for growing up and learning how to play better, listen to others and consider their points of view.

They will also be delivering assemblies and lessons through the year to keep this issue fresh in the minds of the children...perhaps we should be paying them!



Kitchen Committee Team!

Lunch is probably one of the most important times of the day, and with such wonderful food prepared by Cheryl and her team, the lunch hall is a vibrant room to say the least.

Our Kitchen Committee are a vital part of this process. Not only do they help set-up and clear down the tables, the other more important part of their duties is encouraging children to try new foods they might be reluctant about, making sure they drink enough (or even just one glass) water to calling in and escorting the next year groups to eat from the playground.

Now, the Kitchen Committee might say they do it because on their scheduled days, they get extra pudding, but I reckon it's the sense of pride they get from the relationships they forge with the staff and children that makes this role extra special—plus the green lanyards!

Student Leadership!

Our Student Leaders have the most varied role—everything from attending regular council sessions, to representing and feeding back to individual classes, as well as participating in school tours for prospective families.

Student Leadership are the go to group of children and as such, need to be flexible, resilient and creative...especially when they approach local businesses for donations to our Christmas Fayre Raffle; they're a persuasive bunch! Look out for their purple lanyards!





Librarians!

By far the most popular team—there's 14 of them—and that's brilliant, because we love reading at Riverside.

Our librarians have taken on a class each to help spruce up their book corners and work with their children to select and celebrate books. They have also met the Mayor of Hebden Royd who they toured around our library and received £200 in book vouchers to invest in our school.

On top of this, there's the daily upkeep of our library as there are always books to be reshelved, tidied and ordered. They've even taken to redecorating some book shelves so that they will sit attractively in book corners and entice readers to make a new discovery. Look out for their red lanyards—pun completely intended.



Playground Leaders

Last but never least, our playground leaders are aiming to bring in new games to our playground, and help the school children play the existing games fairly and with a sense of fun. They've already made changes to our football rota, and have received training from a sports coach in playground activities. Look out for their yellow lanyards!

