

All steam ahead...

As we approach the end of our second week open, it's been lovely to enjoy the school properly opening up again. You only really notice how different things have been when you see sights that you've missed for such a long time.

For example, children now eat together at the same time, enjoying a full kitchen menu, and time enough to sit and catch up with friends from other classes whilst they also enjoy Cheryl's superb food. I watched some of our new Year 3 children playing a dodgeball game with our Year 6 children over break, Gus in Year 3 pitting his four square skills against Leo in Year 6 and Kyle in Year 5. The kind of play that makes the playground a special place.

We're super excited to start providing the children with a wealth of opportunity and experience to help recover what they've missed whether that's through our after school clubs like the choir, boxing and gymnastics, or the recent weaving workshop the children in Years 5 and 6 participated in (more about that inside). We also hope those of you that could make the Meet the Teacher events found that useful too.

All in all, we look, feel and (certainly) sound like a school. Long may it last.



Welcome to the team!

We've had lots of new staff joining us this year so please, when you see them, say a big hello to:

Robyn Main (teacher in 3/4TM)

Mags Martin (LSA in 3/4H),

Amy Bates (LSA in 6J)

Molly Gray (Kitchen staff)

Mel Pollard (Lunchtime supervisor)

Aliyah Matloob (student teacher in Year 5)



**YOUR
SCHOOL
NEEDS
YOU!**

Donations needed!

We are looking to improve our playground provision even more over the coming term but we need your help in gathering some items to help us achieve that. If you have any of the following then please, if you can spare them, we'd love to take them off your hands:

- **Board games**—we have started a Board Game Café over three lunch times during the week for children to access indoors. Miss Stansfield, who organises this, would love any complete board games that you could donate, particularly those that are quick and easy to play, like Ker-plunk! Remember that?
- **Planters/Bulbs/Compost**—we want to bring more colour to the playground so any of these items will help us turn the playground greener. Ms Doty, who is organising games in the lunchbreak, would also like to divide the playground into zones using planters if you have some spare, or know of anyone that does.

Parent helpers needed!

Every year we put out an appeal for families to join our parent group, FORs.

Part of the richness of schools are the extra events that happen over the year, like the Halloween Disco we'd like to hold in October, or the Christmas Fair, which didn't happen last year.

Without volunteers to help run these events, hunt down donations for a raffle, man a cake stall for their child's class, the less we can plan and deliver these activities.

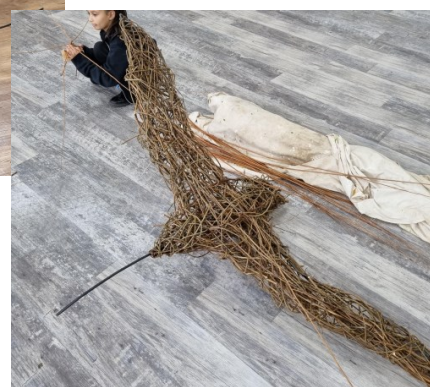
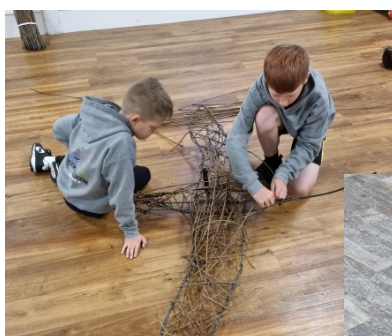
All the money we raise is ploughed back into the Federation, and with pupil numbers falling and budgets constricting, extra income from such ideas can make a BIG difference to school experiences for the children.

Look out for notices soon how to join—plans are afoot to enrich the school year and the more people to help, the better these will be!

Weaving wonders!

The Hope Baptist church are planning to erect woven sculptures of curlews beside the church and approached us to help construct them, ably guided by local artist Joe Gregory.

The final sculptures already look amazing so keep an eye out for them on the side of the church opposite the antiques centre soon!



Steps you can take to help keep your child safer online

Parental controls: Parental controls have been designed to help you manage your child's online activities. There are various types, some of which are free but others which can be bought. However, nothing is totally fool proof so they shouldn't replace the need for you to support and advise your child using the internet. For more information and step by step instructions on setting up parental controls, visit [Parental Controls & Privacy Settings Guides - Internet Matters](#).

Supervise their online activity: Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as the living room or kitchen, where an adult is able to supervise. Primary-age children should not access the internet in private spaces alone, such as in a bedroom or bathroom.

Explore together and chat little and often: Ask your child to show you their favourite apps, games and sites and encourage them to teach you how to use these. Ask them if anything ever worries them online. Make sure they know they won't be in trouble and can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried, sad or scared.

Make sure they know where to go for support: Remind your child they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried or upset. For a breakdown of report services, visit: [Supporting your child with reporting unwanted content online](#)

Take a look at Thinkuknow: Thinkuknow is the national online safety education programme from the National Crime Agency. Thinkuknow offers learning activities, advice and support for children and young people aged 4-18 and their families. The [Jessie & Friends animations](#) for 4-7s will help you start a conversation about online safety and for 8-10's, there's the [Play Like Share animations](#) and the [Band Runner game and advice website](#).

Help your child identify trusted adults who can help them if they are worried: This includes you and other adults at home, as well as adults from wider family, school or other support services who they are able to contact at this time. Encourage them to draw a picture or write a list of their trusted adults.

Talk about how their online actions affect others: If your child is engaging with others online, remind them to consider how someone else might feel before they post or share something. If they are considering sharing a photo/video of somebody else, they should always ask permission first.

Use 'SafeSearch': Most web search engines will have a 'SafeSearch' function, which will allow you to limit the content your child can access whilst online. Look out for the 'Settings' button on your web browser homepage, which is often shaped like a small cog.

Visit [Thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents) for more information on keeping your child safer online.

Also, remember the school has a webpage dedicated to online safety (<https://riverside-junior-school.secure-primariesite.net/esafety/>) where the children and families can find lots of useful links as well as a reporting tool if they're concerned about something that has happened or they've come across online.