

Rivington Foundation Primary School



*Horrobin Lane, Rivington, Horwich, Bolton, BL6 7SE
Tel: (01204) 696951 Headteacher: Mrs S E Annette BA (QTS)*

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are a family at Rivington – a family to which we will always be a part of – staff, parents, and pupils. It's a family where you have a life-time membership.

Sadly, several days ago one of our most treasured and long-serving staff members passed away. Joan Drinkwater served as a lunchtime supervisor at Rivington Foundation Primary for 30 years only retiring in her 70s. Joan watched our school move from around 20 pupils to the numbers we have now. Joan was Rivington through and through and she was passionate about our school. On a personal level, she was always so supportive and helpful to me as a young teacher and she was always determined to do and to fight for the best for our school. Dinners always ran so smoothly due to her dedication and to her meticulous attention to detail. Joan is so fondly and lovingly thought of by all the staff with whom she worked and even more so by the families and children she cared for and served.

On leaving Rivington, Joan, to our continued benefit, never intended to lose ties with school. As verger at Rivington Church for 10 years she held a crucial role in organising school events, preparing church and helping us with the running of our annual Harvest Festivals, Christingles and Leaver's Services. It was always great to see her friendly and helpful face as we entered the building – nothing was ever too much and - through her hard work and devotion – everything always ran so smoothly.

Joan was not only known to school as a member of staff but as a Grandparent and Great Grandparent too – her most passionate role and one which continued right up to her passing. To Joan family was everything and she was always an avid and devoted audience member and helper at every concert, production and event.

We have a great school but it didn't happen overnight and Joan will forever be one of the contributing factors to its success and continued success. Joan will be sadly missed and forever remember by all the staff and families who worked with her at Rivington. She was a true lady and a true friend.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Joan's family at this difficult time.

Best wishes,

Sarah Annette and the Rivington Team