

OUR FOCUS VALUE THIS TERM IS Perseverance.



Christingle: Our annual Christmas events begin with this year's Christingle on **Friday 7th December** at Rivington Parish Church. All are invited to this very special service. Please see the attached letter for more details.

Christmas Fair: Please come and join us for some cakes, mince pies, warm drinks, games and tombola's at our annual Christmas Fair. There will be plenty for all ages to enjoy and an opportunity to purchase Christmas items that the children have made.

Circus trip: Thank you for all the returned consent slips could you please look on parent pay for the request for a voluntary contribution.

Concert/Nativity tickets: A letter was sent out this week for tickets for the concerts. Please pop into the office if you did not receive this. **Please return ticket requests as soon as possible so that we are able to allocate tickets and any spares.**

Grandparent's Tea Party: A letter was sent out this week for tickets for this popular event. Please pop into the office if you did not receive this. **The afternoon session is almost full so please return forms as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.**

Breakfast with Santa: Please look in your child's bag for a letter concerning this popular event.

Premier League Primary Stars Poetry Competition – If you would like to enter the Premier League Primary Stars poetry competition see the competition forms attached. Hand the forms back to Ms Redmayne by Monday 10th December . More information can be found at:

<https://plprimarystars.com/>

Click on 'watch the film'. We will be notified in March 2019 if we are one of the winners. Good Luck to everyone who enters! The theme is DIVERSITY and the poem can either be an acrostic poem, a new poem or continue the 'Beautifully different, Wonderfully the same' poem found on the PowerPoint guidance attached. The poems can be any structure and don't have to rhyme. Poems should be no more than 20 lines or 150 words.

"Technology is not the problem. It is how we use it!"

Yet another craze is sweeping the online safety world – Fornite. The big concern is that it's a very open platform and children are being contacted by strangers. This has been confirmed by the NSPCC in some recent research. The game also contains violence and is very addictive – making children tired.

PLEASE SEE THE PARENTS SAFETY LEAFLET ATTACHED.

Safety guidance and things to be aware of with online games:

- **What is the age restrictions of a game?**
- Are the voice chat systems off?
- Can the text message service within the game be turned off?
- Can send anyone messages? Can you block messages?
- Be very careful syncing a bank card to a game, in Fortnite you can buy skins and other items to personalise your avatar. These items cost real money, prices range from £34.99 to £119.99;
- **Is there animated violence within the game?**
- Parents are advised to talk to their children about the game and the dangers;
- Children should play games with an agreed time limit - gaming can be very addictive;
- Keep technology downstairs in a family room, parents can then keep an eye on what is going on;
- Children wearing headsets is dangerous as we can't hear who they are talking to;
- Children need to come away from the game before they go to bed. Bedrooms should be digital free zones;
- Set up an online safety family agreement at home.

The NSPCC has partnered with O2 to provide an online safety helpline for parents and carers to answer questions and address concerns about a child's online safety: 0808 800 5000.

Change of holiday dates: Thank you for your support in the adaption of our calendar for the academic year 2019-20. I appreciate that this may present some problems for a number of people so please come and see me and we can discuss how school can support you moving forward. School are aiming to provide holiday care on these days to support those of you who work – coming from a full-time working family I completely understand these pressures. School and its Governors whole-heartedly believe that these Inset days are crucial to school development. Many thanks once again.

Christmas Fair: Due to circumstances we have to move the Christmas Fair to **Thursday 6th December**. We hope that you are still able to join us! Many thanks for your understanding.

Wednesday 5th December – cakes COME IN UNIFORM and receive an ALTERNATIVE REWARD FOR YOUR EFFORTS!

Many thanks for all your contributions for the Christmas Fair – your generosity is fantastic! This Wednesday we will be asking for cakes for the Christmas Fair – the children will be in uniform and will be given an alternative reward for their efforts! Many thanks in advance – the Christmas Fair will support each classroom in purchasing resources and in replacing the flooring in the EYFS classroom.

PTA Classlist: This is a great communication tool for all parents to find out about school events and PTA events. Please go to Classlist and search for Rivington to sign-up.

Data Collection Sheets: We still have a few of the Data Collection, Medical and ICT Acceptable Use Policy forms outstanding – found in the front of the school planners. If you have not completed your forms you will have had extra copies sent home this week. Please could these be completed and returned to school as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

Lost uniform: We have a basket of lost/unclaimed uniform. Please come and see Ms Redmayne if you have lost any items – they may be in there! Unclaimed uniform will be placed on a stall at the Christmas Fair.

PE Kits: Children are to wear School PE kits for PE lessons: Purple shorts, white/black t-shirt, socks (if tights need to be taken off), tracksuit bottoms and top (dark if possible) so that PE can be carried out outside if required.

PLEASE CAN ALL UNIFORM BE LABELLED SO THAT IT HAS A LITTLE LESS CHANCE OF THINGS GOING MISSING.

Attendance: Being at school is the most important way to ensure that our children make great progress. We have an attendance target of 97% because we believe hitting this target will improve the progress of all children. We ask you to do all you can to support us with this issue.

NEW WEBSITE: Our new website is live! Mr King (Bella's Dad in Y2) has done an outstanding job in creating our site – it looks amazing and is so easy to use – a blessing for staff! Thank you Mr. King - you have worked so hard to create a 'first-rate' product!

Have a look at: www.rivingtonprimaryschool.co.uk

Primary Admission Information for 2018: Admissions for Reception opened on Monday 4th September. The closing date for Primary School Admissions is Monday 15th January 2018. For information about our admissions criteria please visit the school website. **Please note:** Last year there was a change to our pre-school criteria/points. This has had to be made due to direction from LCC Admissions. Please check if you are applying this year.

Class Assembly Dates: 9th November Y5/6, 8th February Y3/4, 15th February, 29th March Y1/2, 5th July Rec.

Parking- Thank you for all your efforts with our impossible situation! Please stay away from the yellow zig-zagged lines - patrols are in place!

Appointments to see teachers - Although we operate an 'open door policy', we hope you can appreciate that it may not always be possible to see parents without notice. In the morning teachers are usually making preparations for the day ahead and after school may be involved in meetings or afterschool activities. If you need to see your child's teacher, please



arrange an appointment before or after school to ensure they are available to see you and can give you the time and privacy you require. Messages can also be passed to teachers via the school office to be passed to class teachers and don't forget we can be contacted by email.

Twitter – This is an invitation to our new and existing parents to join us. Please follow the instructions below to follow us.

To access our school Twitter account please follow the following steps:-

- 1) Set up your own Twitter account if you don't already have one.
- 2) Send an email to twitter@rivington.lancs.sch.uk with your Twitter @name, your full name, the name of your child and the class they are in.
- 3) Search for @rivington

We linking our Twitter account to our new website which means it would be available to view without having to go through the steps above. This would also make it available to the public and we would obviously continue to omit those children who cannot be included in photographs. We have lots of lovely tweets posted by our staff throughout the week. Please join us as you are missing a treat!

School Bank: The school bank will take place in the TreeHouse at 2:45pm on Friday. For new starters – details about joining the school bank will be sent out shortly.

Contacting school – bursar@rivington.lancs.sch.uk or head@rivington.lancs.sch.uk

Holiday Leave:

Please note our policy on the Leave of Absence. In line with Government instructions, we can no longer authorise Holiday Leave as a matter of course. Government are placing great pressure on schools not to authorise holidays during term times. Both I and the governors do want to work with parents. We will look at holiday requests which fall into exceptional circumstances and where attendance **is above 97.5%**. Please read the attendance policy on the website before submitting an application.

Sickness and hair:

If your child is sick or has had diarrhoea please do not send them back to school **for 48 hours** after symptoms have passed.

Your child's hair should be of a natural colour no shorter than a number 2 and contain no steps or lines – sorry! Remember when you chose Rivington you chose our rules as well – we embrace them, we are proud of them – please keep them.

Please do not let your child come to school wearing nail varnish, anything other than stud earrings or trainers.

If you require a new tie these are now available in the school office.



HELPERS – Please let us know if you are able to help with any of the following: reading with the children, school trips, walking to church or if you have skills which you would be willing to share to support teaching and learning e.g. Historians, Musicians, Scientists, Cookery, ICT etc.

Planners:

Please can you ensure that you have **read and signed the home-school agreement and e-safety agreement** in the front of the school planners. There is also a section for you to read and sign with your child – all this goes towards strengthening and sharing our school's values and ethos. Many thanks!

Suggestion Box – We now have a suggestion box in the reception area just outside the school office. We welcome your suggestions and comments.

Clubs and Activities:

If you would like your child to learn to play the piano, flute, guitar or ukulele please see Ms Redmayne in the office.

Free School Meals: All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically qualify for Universal free school meals. However children in the infants and the juniors may qualify for free school meals because you are in receipt of certain benefits, in which case you need to register your eligibility. If you are eligible your child could qualify for Pupil Premium funding from the Government which will come into school to improve pupil attainment or provide additional opportunities. If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Parent Pay: Please can you ensure that parent pay accounts are up-to-date.

Adult Helpers: Do you have a hidden talent that we can utilize in school or would like to offer a 'helping hand' then keep a look out for our parental help register to be sent out shortly.

Thank you to all parents, carers and families for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs. Annette

