



Moving: If you have peeped through the windows you will have noticed that we are in the final stages of our building work – thank goodness! The move back to school will require ‘all hands on deck’ and it’s crucial that we ensure the safety of all our families and children. I can only apologise that a letter regarding moving has not yet been sent – we have had to deal with a few snagging issues this week which are still on-going. A letter will be sent out giving more information tomorrow.

Parents Evening Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th February: Our Parents Evenings will take place on Monday 11th February and Tuesday 12th February. Attendance is required and the children's interim reports will be given out. Meetings will take place in the Church Hall and you will also have the opportunity to come along earlier and have a look at the work they have been doing this year so far.

We have joined the 21st century! Parents evening appointments are now available to book online through ParentPay accounts. Please can you ensure that you leave at least 20mins between appointments for siblings. **CAN NURSERY PARENTS PLEASE MAKE APPOINTMENTS FOR THE MONDAY EVENING WHEN MRS. ORGILL WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION FOR YOU – THANK YOU.**

Snow: The staff at Rivington work hard to ensure the school is open every day. However we do have to prepare for the possibility of snow disruption during the winter months.

Our key objective during the worst weather conditions is to open school on a site that is safe and adequately staffed. When we experience ice or snow our first priority is to assess whether we can make the site safe enough for adults and children.

Although we keep up-to-date with forecasts and weather warnings, some snow and ice conditions can be quite localised and reports can be very inaccurate! What appears to be ‘slushy’ snow at school can be compacted very quickly on frozen ground when children are walking on it, or there may be severe snow around school but little where you live. The last mile to school from either direction can be very hazardous – we are often not visited by gritting vehicles immediately (if at all!) and school also needs to consider the safety of everyone travelling to the site as walking is not an option for the large majority of our pupils and staff.

When there is a possibility that school may not be able to open we will assess the following criteria:

- Can the site be made safe?

- Will we have sufficient staff to meet appropriate adult:child ratios?
- Can we provide meals at lunchtime?

If you wish to find out whether the school is open or not on a day when the weather is bad, please keep an eye out for texts as this is the quickest way to share information or tune in to **Radio Lancashire** where information will be broadcast. Alternatively you can visit the **Rivington Foundation website** for closure information.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT CLOSING A SCHOOL IS NEVER A DECISION THAT IS TAKEN LIGHTLY; WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO STAY OPEN.

Can I please say a huge thank you to Mr. Dagnall who helped staff to clear snow on site. Mr. Wharton Jones and Lucas Hill's Mum in Y5 for bringing grit to school after ours was taken! And also a huge thank you to Mr. and Mrs. King who donated snow shovels to help with the efforts. We truly are a family – a shining strength of our wonderful school!

Once again, thank you for your patience and understanding with the weather!

Headlice: As most of you are aware there is a recurring problem of head lice. Parents are treating their children and then they catch it again very soon afterwards. Would ALL parents please check their child's head regularly and if they find head lice please treat as soon as possible. If you already have these unwelcome visitors, the first step is to get an effective treatment which will kill the lice, and to treat ALL THE FAMILY WITH IT. Head lice treatment is available on the NHS minor ailment scheme free of charge. Anyone who doesn't normally have to pay for prescriptions from their GP - for example because they're under 16, over 60 or on benefits - is eligible for the scheme and will not need to pay for the medicine that the pharmacist suggests. Not all pharmacies are part of the scheme but Tesco pharmacy at Buckshaw Village and Chorley Extra are. If you require any further advice or support please do not hesitate to contact school.

For further information:

https://www.lancashirecare.nhs.uk/media/Publications/CHild_Family_Health_Service/head%20lice.pdf <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice/pages/introduction.aspx>

Please be mindful when parking at the school. We appreciate the support of all our parents/carers in ensuring the safety of all our children. Thank you.



We are so proud number: Ewan McColl in Year 4 was made a seconder at Cubs. The achievements keep coming and the homework he completed this week was outstanding. Once again, we are so very, very proud! What an amazing credit to Rivington you are!

New dates for your diary have been added to the school website:

To upload them directly to your calendar, follow these simple steps:

Copy and Paste this address into your browser (it will not work if you click on the link through Facebook)

<https://www.rivingtonprimaryschool.co.uk/events/>

Scroll down to +export events and click on that

Full list will appear, click on "add all" in the top right hand corner.

Then click done.

Internet Safety: At Rivington we aim to keep everyone safe whilst at the same time enjoying the internet. The schools Online Safety & Mobile Technology policy is available in the policy section of the website which details how we manage e-safety in school but you will also find lots of information here on how to keep your children safe on-line outside of school.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MINIMUM AGE TO USE SNAPCHAT, FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM IS 13, WHATSAPP IS 16.

We urge parents and carers to review and monitor what your child is accessing and discussing whilst online. School strongly recommends that these apps are not used until the legal age is reached.

New Gate: New markings and signage are being placed at the top of the drive to further deter people from parking there. In addition, School is replacing the gate at the top of the drive to one that better supports pedestrians and vehicles entering the site

The BiG Shave: Mr Cairns, our music teacher, is taking part in the BiG Shave where he will be having all his hair shaved off in order to raise awareness of Isabel Morison and raise much needed funds for lifesaving treatment costs for a brain tumour. To read more and if you would like to donate please click on the attached link:

<https://www.gofundme.com/rzv6w-the-big-shave>

Duathlon: Tony Hesketh from the Horwich Harriers contacted School to ask for participants in the annual Rivington Duathlon. It is on the 25th May and in aid of the Christie Hospital, to enter please contact Tony Hesketh on 07552657789.

Attendance: The happiness and educational progress of all our children are our main priorities and we believe that good attendance is a major way in which these priorities can be achieved. The pace of the curriculum is such that when your child is away from school, the learning they miss will significantly have an effect on future learning and can often not 'be made up'. Rivington Foundation Primary School follows Lancashire County Council guidelines regarding authorised and unauthorised absences. We monitor attendance every term and we will write to you if your child's attendance falls below 95%. At this stage in the year if this is due to illness this figure often increases as we progress through the year. If your child's attendance falls below 90% this is classed as persistent absence and in these cases we would like to support you as much as possible.

We ask for your support in this matter and if you would like any advice in relation to attendance please do not hesitate to contact school.

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

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.

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.

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.

We hope that you have a lovely weekend!

Mrs. Annette and all the Rivington Staff