

## World Book 'Week':

What a fantastic week we have had in school. We are working hard to improve our writing across school and a love of books and reading is paramount to gathering story ideas and vocabulary! On Friday of last week, we were lucky to have Wes Magee – poet and author – come and join us for the day and what an inspiration he was to all of our children! On Monday, we had a visit from a storyteller who reminded us all how wonderful stories are. On Tuesday, we were joined by Fizzy Tree Theatre who carried out drama workshops based on famous books. The performances were absolutely amazing from the children – Y5/6 were outstanding performing Matilda! On Thursday we finished our week with the children dressing up as their favourite characters and taking part in a 'Swaparama' across school – it was wonderful to see children aged 5 to 11 enjoying the same book in such varied ways! Thank you for all your support, the children looked amazing. The aim of World Book 'Week' was to promote the enjoyment of sharing a story for just 10 minutes a day and how beneficial this can be. We enjoyed looking at all our costumes and whole school 'Story time'. Hopefully the children will continue to enjoy reading a range of books daily even if it is for only 10 minutes a day! Thank you to Ms Cadwallader for all your hard-work!





**OUR FOCUS VALUE THIS TERM IS COURAGE:**



Congratulations to our Seven Wonders: **Ava Dunleavy, Connor, Jack Cleworth, Jackson Lane, Ava Mort, George Kewley, Ruby Vose.**

Writing Awards: **Chloe, Martha Coleman, Isabelle Berry McPherson, Lukas Orgill, Jessica Snape,**

**Ariana Haydock and Oliver Freeman.**

Bronze Awards: **Finlay Munro, Chloe, Ava Dunleavy, Elliot Lally, Roxy Vose, Anya Higginson.**

Silver Awards: **Jessica Bramwell, Ruby Shepherd.**

**Mother's Day Gift Shop:** The Friends of Rivington Foundation Primary will once again be running the Mother's Day Gift Shop in the TreeHouse on **Friday 29th March 2019 from 11am to 1:30pm.** Children are invited to **bring £3** into school to buy a gift for their Mum/Grandma etc. All funds raised will be put towards improving the junior toilets and EYFS classroom floor.

**PE Kit:** Every class from Reception to Year 6 has two lessons of PE a week and there is a timetable of when their lessons are. However, there needs to be some flexibility due to PE lessons sometimes having to change days (for reasons such as World Day, school trips, productions, provision that term or adverse weather). We therefore always ask that PE kits be taken home on a Friday and brought back into school on a Monday. This means that your child should never miss a single PE lesson!

**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.

**Year 6 Bike-ability:** Y6 cycling proficiency will take place on **Thursday 14th and Friday 15th** of March. Parents should have received further details.

**Rugs and Cushions:** We would like donations of rugs and cushions that can be used on the playground during break times. If have any to donate please bare us in mind. Thank you!

**Non-uniform Days:** There will be two non-uniform days on **Thursday 28th March and Wednesday 3rd April**. Children are asked to bring in an Easter egg in return for wearing non-uniform. These will be used to raise money at the Easter Bingo for further improvements in school.

**Easter Bingo:** This will take place on Thursday 4th April in the Church Hall. Further details to follow.

**SATS Meeting:** There will be a meeting for Y6 and Y2 parents' regarding SATs on Tuesday 2nd April. There are also Maths SATs training sessions for Parents on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March in the TreeHouse. KS1 is from 9:00am to 11:30am and 1-3pm for KS2. These are sessions led by supportive professionals and they will be a fantastic insight to the expectations required at the end of KS1 and KS2.

**Internet Safety: Please see Friday's letters concerning Social Media concerns and advice.**

**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.

**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. If your child brings a letter home please do not hesitate to contact school if you wish to discuss this further. If your child does not bring a letter home this means they have achieved an attendance figure of 96% or more. 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.

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

As wonderful as technology is we are finding that it is causing a small number of problems in school. Some children are playing games with each other online with no restrictions on who can 'chat' to them – this presents serious safeguarding concerns. Other children are 'falling out' with one another in games and then these fallouts continue and escalate in school. We are also noticing that children who are playing for long periods are often tired and finding it hard to concentrate.

School feels it is important to again pass on the following information/things to think about:

- **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.

Two websites which are really useful for advice and guidance about individual games such as age limits and content are:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk>

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com>

## **School appreciates your support in this matter.**

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Class Assembly Dates:** 29th March Y1/2 and the 5th July for Reception.

**Parking-** Thank you for all your efforts with our impossible situation! Please stay away from the yellow zig-zagged lines - patrols are in place! Please can you not leave cars near to the entrance to the rear carpark – these cars are requiring children and families to walk into the road – presenting families with a very dangerous situation.

**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](mailto: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!

**Contacting school** – [bursar@rivington.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@rivington.lancs.sch.uk) or [head@rivington.lancs.sch.uk](mailto: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.

**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.

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

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs. Annette

