

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



**Bromilow, George Parkin, Archie Noblett, Amber Taylor, George Kewley and Tobey Percival.**

Bronze Awards: **Jack Cleworth and Roxy Vose.**

**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 which may include meeting together to discuss the best way to support you.** 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.

**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.

Congratulations  
to our Rivington  
Remarkables: **Jack Ford, Mae Roper,  
Tallulah Roberts, Thomas Cleworth,  
Karsten Taylor, Lucas Hill and Oliver  
Brennand.**

Writing Awards: **Esme Rose Blythe, Isobel**



**Communication:** We communicate with you using a whole range of media. To get the best from us you can:

- **Follow us on Twitter** for latest updates, clarifications and of course pictures galore!
- **Read the Newsletter** – we e-mail this out - let Ms Redmayne know if there are problems with this.
- **Check your online calendar** – you can sink this with your phone calendar – just follow the details below!
- **Check the 'Mums and Dads' Facebook page** (Which is nothing to do with school personnel), but kind hearted parents do copy and paste relevant Twitter feeds/News onto the page.
- **Classlist:** A PTA run app on which relevant news and updates are uploaded.
- **Text messaging service** – the quickest way to get messages to you! We know that there have been some problems with this – PLEASE DO NOT DOWNLAOD THE APP! We also know that not receiving message can cause major problems – we can only apologise for the recent failures – and the text messaging company are addressing these issues. Please contact the office immediately if you think you are not getting any message. **Ms. Redmayne will send out a test message at 9:30 on Monday and please contact school if you do not receive this.**

We do our best with communication - we're not always accurate I know that! I'm the biggest inaccuracy around the place... But hopefully we do get it right way more times than not...Many thanks for you continued patience and support!

**Uniform:** At Rivington we believe that wearing a **uniform** is a badge of **pride**, creates an identity for a school and is an important part of being a school student. **Uniform** gives students a sense of belonging to our school and creates an identity for us in the community. A school uniform teaches our pupils to dress smartly and take pride in their appearance and helps students to prepare for when they leave school and may have to dress smartly or wear a uniform. There is a belief a school uniform can improve learning by reducing distraction, sharpening focus on schoolwork and making the classroom a more purposeful environment, allowing students to perform better in all aspects of school.

Perhaps most importantly, a uniform means students don't have to worry about peer pressure when it comes to their clothes. When everyone is dressed the same, worrying about what you look like isn't so important! There is no competition about being dressed in the latest trend, which would put a great deal of financial pressure on pupils and parents.

I am proud of our uniform – it represents our wonderful school and our wonderful pupils!

It is therefore important to ensure that the uniform we have is worn by everyone correctly.

**Please may I politely remind you that your child's hair should be of a natural colour no shorter than a number 2 and contain no steps or lines – sorry!** Please can children ensure that they are wearing watching dark socks. 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.

**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.

**Teach Your Monster to Read:** Phonics and reading programme is available for a limited time only free on an iPad or Android. Normally it costs £5 for the app. Parents of Reception and KS1 children may like to download this super programme while the offer is available.

**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 Events:** Please see the letter attached regarding our Easter Events day on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April – all are welcome!

**Easter Bingo:** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Church Hall doors open at 5:45pm for refreshments. Tickets are £1 per adult and 50p per child. Bingo books are available on the night at £1 per strip. There will also be an Easter egg family prize raffle. Please send money into school in a **SEALED AND CLEARLY NAMED ENVELOPE.** Please do not send in any loose cash.

**Sports for Schools Athlete visit:** I'm delighted to announce that Rivington is taking part in the Sports for Schools scheme to bring a top athlete to our school to encourage children to take up (more) sport. We're looking forward to a terrific, fun, and inspiring event which will take place on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April. The **Paralympic Cyclist** – Craig McCann - will visit Rivington on this day and work with all the children.

**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.

**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!

**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.

### **"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.**

**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!

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

**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.

**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)

### **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.

**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

