



March Newsletter



World Book Day

We had lots of fun reading *The Parrot Tico Tango*. Thank you to Tower View and Miss Harvey who came to run steel pan workshops and the Carribean centre who taught children to Limbo. Also a big thank you to our catering team for the amazing Carribean lunch.

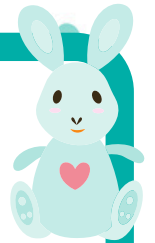


Bagels

I wanted to let you know about a couple of changes coming up. We've had to make the difficult decision to stop our bagel programme in the mornings, as the funding for this has been withdrawn. I know some of our pupils have really enjoyed this, so we're sorry to see it go. This will end at the end of term.



New Uniform



I'm really excited to share some news about our new active uniform range coming in September. We've listened to what families have told us, and we think this new option gives everyone more flexibility and comfort.

From September, children can wear a green t-shirt or polo shirt, paired with black jogging bottoms or combats, along with a hoodie or zip hoodie if they'd like. And here's the best bit – we're giving all our pupils in Nursery through to Year 5 a free t-shirt and hoodie to help with the costs of getting started. Of course, children can still wear their current uniform too, so there's no rush to buy everything straight away.

We think this new active uniform will be great for our pupils, especially during PE and outdoor learning. More details will follow closer to September.



After-School Dance Club Fun!

Year 1 and 2 children have been having a fantastic time at our after school dance club. Each week has been filled with music, movement and lots of smiles as the children learned fun routines and explored different ways to move. They have enjoyed creating their own dances using techniques such as actions, levels (high and low), speed, and simple turns and jumps. Working both on their own and with partners, the children have shown great imagination and confidence



PARKING

We kindly remind all parents and carers to park safely and responsibly when dropping off or collecting children. Unsafe or inconsiderate parking outside the school gates puts pupils, families, and staff at risk and creates unnecessary congestion. Please use designated parking areas and avoid stopping on yellow lines, pavements, or in ways that block driveways. For the safety of our school community, the police are now regularly monitoring the area and may take action where necessary. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.

NUT ALLERGY

Please remember that we are a nut-free school due to several children and staff members having serious nut allergies. To help keep everyone safe, we ask that no nuts or nut-containing products are included in packed lunches. This includes popular items such as Kinder Bueno and Nutella, which both contain hazelnuts. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring our school remains a safe environment for all.

WE NEED YOU!

We are currently looking for new Parent Governors to join our governing board. This is a wonderful opportunity for a parent or carer to play an active role in shaping the direction of our school, supporting its development, and ensuring the best possible outcomes for all pupils. Parent Governors bring a valuable perspective to the team, offering insight into the school experience from a family point of view. If you are passionate about contributing to our community and would like to help make a positive difference, we warmly encourage you to consider putting yourself forward for this rewarding role. Please see Mrs Buckingham for further details.



Children's Mental Health Week at River View Primary School

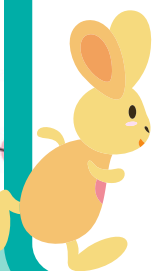


Throughout the week, the children took part in a range of thoughtful and engaging activities designed to explore their sense of belonging. During the week by joined a special online assembly with children's author Katie Hopper, who shared her insights about identity, belonging and the importance of finding your place in the world. The children thoroughly enjoyed hearing her speak about the books that she had written with her children. In classrooms, children spent time discussing what belonging means to them. They reflected on the different communities they are part of – at home, in school, with friends, and in clubs or teams. These discussions helped children to recognise that everyone's sense of belonging is unique and personal.

One of the highlights of the week was a creative art project where children designed and created their own personal maps. These maps illustrated the places, people and activities that make them feel happy, safe and connected. It was wonderful to see such thoughtful and imaginative work, with each map telling its own special story.

During PE lessons, children explored teamwork through a variety of fun team games. These activities helped reinforce the importance of cooperation, communication and supporting one another – all key elements of feeling part of a group.

Children's Mental Health Week gave us a valuable opportunity to focus on emotional wellbeing and to remind our pupils that River View Primary School is a place where they belong. We encourage parents and carers to visit the class webpages to see more examples of the fantastic activities and creative work the children took part in throughout the week.



Attendance at River View Primary School

Reporting Absence

If your child is unwell and unable to attend, please contact the school on the morning of the absence by phone call, email, text, or by leaving a message on the answerphone.

If your child is absent for more than one day, please contact us each morning to let us know.

When reporting an absence, please include:

- Your child's full name
- Their class or year group
- A clear and detailed reason for the absence

Please note that vague reasons such as "still poorly", "feeling unwell" or "not 100%" are not acceptable. We require specific information to ensure we record absences accurately and support families appropriately.

Please note that if you do not inform us of absence and we have to contact you, then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Safeguarding Reminder

If parents or carers do not make contact with the school to explain a child's absence, we may carry out a Safe and Well check as part of our safeguarding procedures. This may involve contacting you directly, contacting other named contacts that you have shared with us or visiting the family home.

Holidays During Term Time

A reminder that we are unable to authorise holidays during term time. Any unauthorised holiday will result in a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) being issued. Please plan family holidays during the designated school breaks to avoid disruption to your child's learning.

Dates for the Diary

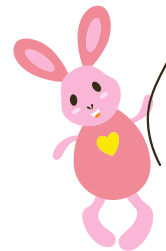
13th March- Non Uniform (Chocolate)

18th & 19th March- Parents Evening

26th March- Easter Bingo

27th March- Last day of Term

13th April- Term starts



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday®

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