

Dear Riverley Families,

I hope you are all well.

We have had an incredible start to the school year as we build on the successes of the past as well as look forward to how we prepare our children for the future.

It was so lovely to see so many of you during our Curriculum Information evenings and share our vision for the year ahead. Forest School and outdoor learning will continue to develop the children holistically, and their well-being will remain our top priority through our all-rounded approach to education.

Thank you to all of you who donated and engaged in our second Hello Yellow Day which focuses specifically on children's mental health. We know that children's well-being extends far beyond commemorative days and it is so important to us that every child knows that they have trusted adults who they can talk to about any worries, concerns or questions that they may have.

As discussed, one of our main priorities for this year is to develop a world-class STEM education. STEM Education, at its core, simply means educating students in four specific disciplines, namely, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths. In order for this to be a success, we have heavily invested in resources for the children as well as professional development for our teachers.

We all know that technology is easily accessible for our children and as teachers our role as educators is changing, as a result. Through our preparation for learning strategy, as opposed to homework, our children can acquire knowledge prior to lesson time and then apply, evaluate, justify and problem solve when they come to school.

Through prioritising the importance of choice, variety, creativity and imagination, we will ensure that all children apply knowledge and skills in a way that is relevant to them - truly preparing them for future life. In the past, career paths were stable but in this new modern age - flexibility, versatility and adaptability are key for everyone to be able to succeed in any occupation and indeed life.

Over the course of the year the children will engage in exciting STEM projects including the exploration of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence, in our newly refurbished D and T lab. We look forward to sharing the journey with you.

Wishing you all a joyous half-term break and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 1 November.

With very best wishes,

Sabrina Reilly

Head of School

Excitement in The Early Years

A huge welcome to newest members of our Riverley Family! This half-term, the children have made new friends, learnt new routines, and formed great relationships with the adults. We are so impressed with how well the children have settled in and how much the children have already learnt.

The first topic that we explore in Reception and Nursery is 'Ourselves' and the children have been learning about different families, different houses, their local area and different cultures. While doing this, there has been a keen focus on developing those key *Learning in the Deep* skills of independence, resilience and curiosity through providing a rich and varied range of experiences.



Creativity, ambition and teamwork!



Friendships, fun and laughter!



Curiosity, self-expression and tenacity!

Let's go to the Library!



Lea Bridge Library's Grand Opening

Earlier this term, Year 4 were invited to celebrate the Lea Bridge Library's grand opening. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to join the community and participate in a range of creative activities and – of course – marvel at the amazing books on offer.

Lea Bridge Library, built 1905, has been beautifully renovated to include a multi-use space and cafe, overlooking a Friendship Gardens at the rear. This is a wonderfully calm and relaxing place to enjoy reading in our local area.

As always, the children were proud to represent their school in this momentous occasion. For more information on the library, please click on the following link:

[Waltham Forest Library Information Link](#)

Health Nurse Drop-In Sessions

We have monthly school nurse drop-in sessions where families, who have medical queries about their child, can visit the nurse.

These sessions are designed to support all students and to provide the Healthy Child Programme, through key pathways based on physical health and development as well as emotional health and wellbeing.

If you would like to see the school nurse, please request a referral letter from the school office via office@riverley@waltham.sch.uk and return it to the school.



The Griffin Sports Festival 2021



During week one, our children showcased all it takes to be a great sportsperson. They displayed concentration, motivation, resilience and great team work throughout their competitions where each house team faced another in: football, handball, sitting volleyball and archery.

This year, we celebrated the Griffin Sports Festival over two weeks. Our Proud Tradition consisted of a week of in-school activities and a week of competitions with our siblings at Willow Brook and Lammas before finishing off with a whole school celebration. The theme of this year was, "The Olympics". Each school represented a different country and we represented New Zealand at Riverley. The children enjoyed exploring New Zealand's elite athletes and driven mentality. The fortnight came to an end with none other than a whole-school Haka performance.



Week two saw our Year 6 children engaged in a range of sports at Lammas Secondary school, where they competed against other Griffins in volleyball and basketball. As well as displaying excellent sporting skills, the children had the opportunity to meet other like-minded Griffins. We saw our Griffin leaders from Lammas support the children in basketball with warm ups, skills and tactics. The children displayed strategic planning and resilience while enjoying this opportunity to connect with other Griffins and play fast-paced team games.



Please click on the link below to view the Riverley Haka, which demonstrates our strength, unity and courage:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zphA9ojKmyw>



Hello Yellow 2021



At times, we all struggle with how we're feeling and it's normal to have ups and downs. But it is the little things that help us get through it! From mindfulness activities to meaningful conversations, we explored what it means to look after your mental health. On 18 October 2021, we celebrated and championed Young Minds' campaign to raise awareness and some money in supporting young people and their well-being.

At Riverley, we told each other about all the things we are grateful for to remind us of the wonderful things that we engage in each and every day. We participated in a range of mindfulness activities to help us feel calm and relaxed to remind us of how safe we feel when we are comfortable. We also discussed what makes each and every one of us special because we all have a light to shine and we are determined to shine brightly. At times, we can feel sad, so we discussed what this looks like and what we can do for each other in order to support everyone when this happens. We also highlighted how important it is to be open and honest with our emotions so that we can support one another through tricky times.

We believe that saying #HelloYellow and discussing the importance of mental health with our children is a little thing that can make a big difference: a little yellow can go a long way! Supporting everyone's mental health is crucial, so we are dedicated in supporting young people every single day so that they always remember that they are never alone! Thank you all for your generous donations to such a great cause!

Black History Month

Black History Month is a time for us all to reflect and celebrate the amazing contributions and achievements of people, past and present, in the black community. We are dedicated to ensuring our year round curriculum reflects the narratives of many. Have a look on our website for more Black History Month highlights.



We have had some special guests come to Riverley and share their journey and experiences with the children. Vincent, Gabriel's grandad, was our very first official interviewee for Riverley's Podcast club. The children were in awe of Vincent's stories of his journey to England from Barbados, in the Caribbean during the Windrush. Vincent painted a very vivid picture of his experiences, giving the children a great insight to the trials and tribulations of settling into his new home.

Babatunji Fagbongbe, a successful businessman, trainer and public speaker originally from Nigeria, visited Year 6 to discuss his incredible journey. Having overcome a number of childhood challenges, Baba has led many multi-million-pound projects and has won multiple Toastmaster awards – a public speaking award. Baba is passionate about making a difference to the world, and helping the next generation succeed - one person at a time. After Baba's discussion and interactive workshop, the children felt inspired to reach for the stars and not let anything get in the way of their success. Together, they came up with strategies to succeed!



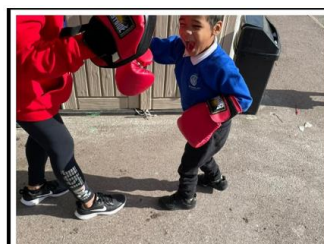
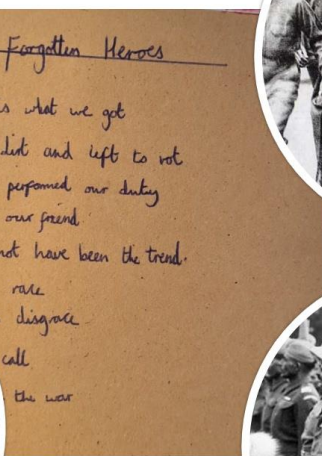
Nursery are getting ready for a carnival this week! The children have been exploring the Caribbean tradition and are preparing to inject an explosion of colour, music and dance into our school. They have been listening and dancing to Soca music and making bright and colourful headdresses. During this week, the children have also made and tasted some traditional Caribbean food: dumplings and plantain!

Black History Month



Our Visual Arts Club mastered the creative skills of Frank Bowling. Maturing into a master of his medium, he developed a visionary approach that fuses abstraction with personal memories. The children enjoyed the creative freedom of his work and were inspired by his achievements. Bowling was the first black artist to be elected as a Royal Academic in 2005.

Year 6 have been learning about World War II this term. Inspired by a news article and poem named, "Forgotten Soldiers", the children explored the different countries within the Commonwealth who fought alongside Britain. Year 6 wanted to bring to light and commemorate all the nations that fought and died for their country, their freedom, democracy and peace. The children demonstrated great empathy when discussing soldiers around the world and the impact that the war had on them and their families. As well as this, they explored a range of unsung heroes in the black community from around the world and the positive contributions that they made to the world.



Reception children have been looking at a range of sports stars for Black History Month. After turning his life around, Joshua got into boxing and was determined to be a success and reach his full potential. The children were inspired by his determination and practised boxing like our local hero.

STEM

STEM is at the heart of nearly everything we do and knowing how these subjects shape the world allows our students to be in the driving seat, making vital changes to improve their future.

This half term has provided opportunities for our children to become skilled bakers, engineers, carpenters, and fashion designers. Using the iterative process, children have attained a vast range of skills which have challenged them to engage creatively and critically with their projects.

All our children are also participating in weekly Computing lessons led by specialist teachers Nicola Grant and Allen Tsui. This half term has involved recognizing common uses of Computing at home and school, identifying inputs and outputs, and making efficient use of them. In upper KS2, an emphasis has been put on using search filters effectively and understanding how computer networks enable communication.



Clubs

Our activity clubs provide a platform for our children to widen their horizons and increase their experiences whilst enhancing their skills for the future. This half term, our Riverley children have immersed themselves into creative art projects, remained tenacious when cooking delicious meals, developed resilience in sports and music and shown excellent problem-solving skills.

We have had an overwhelming response to our clubs since returning to school and are excited to increase our capacity throughout the year. Our community is of utmost importance to us, and we would like to increase capacity by inviting you to offer your expertise and lead an activity club in the Spring term. Please contact the Main Office if you would like to contribute to our clubs provision or would like more information.



Dates to Remember	
Date	Event
Friday 22 October	End of half-term School Finishes at 15:25 (Teatime club operates as normal)
Monday 1 November	Children return to school SAF Opens
Week beginning 1 November	Free Tuition and Saturday School begins for Year 6 children
Thursday 11 November	Remembrance Day
Friday 12 November	SAF closes
Monday 15 November	Road Safety and Anti-bullying week
Wednesday 24 November	Parents' Evening until 19:00 (in school – face to face)
Thursday 25 November	Parents' Evening until 18:00 (virtual – via zoom)
Monday 29 November	INSET day: School Closed to children
Friday 3 December	Winter Recital
Wednesday 8 December	KS2 Christmas Concert : The Grinch
Friday 10 December	Christmas Dinner and Griffin Christmas Carols <i>Wear your Christmas Jumper!</i>
Tuesday 14 December	KS1 Christmas Concert: Ruby, The Christmas Donkey
Wednesday 15 December	Reception Nativity Griffin Candlelit Carols at 17:00
Friday 17 December	Riverley Candlelit Carols Last Day of Term: School Closes at 14:00 (No tea-time club)
Tuesday 4 January	INSET day: School Closed to children
Wednesday 5 January	Children return to school for the beginning of the Spring Term

Additional dates for the academic year can also be found on the website

Dates are subject to change

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