

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of the Spring Term, it seems timely to look back on all the exciting things that have happened since Christmas ...

\* We have been delighted to see Riverside Connect going from strength and feedback from families has been overwhelmingly positive. If you have not yet been to a session, we really look forward to seeing you at one in the coming months.



\* We have continued to extend our Performing Arts opportunities across both sites and highlights from this term include our Integration Week and Showcase Event. Both were truly memorable and left a mark on everyone involved. A pupil from a local Secondary school said that the experience has made her reflect on her career plans and consider a career in teaching.

\* We performed in the BYMT Schools Prom at the Fairfield Halls last month and received some wonderful feedback from members of the audience who were blown away by our talented pupils.

\* We have installed a bird box and webcam at Riverside Beckenham as part of the School's Bird Box Challenge - we will let you know how the birds get on!

\* We have increased the amount of specialist music opportunities across the school and are looking at ways to extend this further in the coming months.

\* We have re-developed the portakabin at Riverside SPC and in preparation for next term's topic, are in the process of transforming it into an airport departure lounge.

\* We have continued to extend our links with local universities in order to play a major role in training teachers for the future. After last week's visit, one trainee teacher said: "I have been in lots of different schools as part of my course and nowhere comes close to Riverside. Sometimes it is hard to put your finger on what it is, but whatever it is, Riverside has it. Truly magical".

Wishing you all a lovely Easter break and here's to a sunny and very special Summer Term.

With very best wishes,

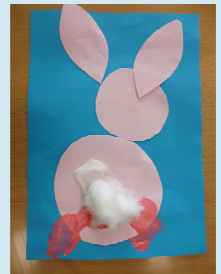
Steve Solomons  
Headteacher



## Easter Term Activities

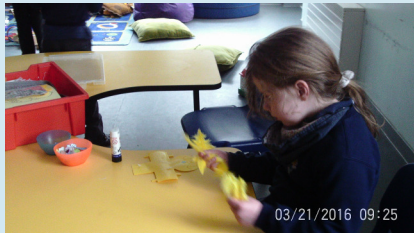
This half-term, we have particularly enjoyed participating in the following World Book Day and Easter activities:

- In **Mars** class we have been getting ready for Easter by creating our own herb gardens. We have visited Homebase to buy the herbs and investigated the herbs to see which ones smell nice or nasty. We are looking forward to planting the herbs in our own pots.
- As it's Easter, **Discovery** Class had "egg-cellent" fun in Science testing different materials using eggs. We hard boiled 7 eggs, and drew a face on them creating our very own Humpty Dumptys. We then placed our Humptys into sandwich bags and chose different materials to add to them, such as shaving foam, cotton wool and flour. We then made our Humptys have a "great fall" by dropping our bags from above our heads and guessing whether they were going to crack or not. Our Discovery scientists loved this "eggs-periment" but not the clearing up at the end!
- **Elephants** class this half term, we have really enjoyed making Easter Cakes and Easter Eggs! We've done this using shredded wheat, chocolate, mini-eggs and a little chick for decoration. To make Easter Eggs we've filled chocolate moulds with chocolate, decorated them with sprinkles and then waited for them to set. We've had so much fun getting ready for Easter!
- During the last week of this half term **Apollo** have been looking at Easter. We have been looking at surprises hidden inside eggs and have been making beautiful Easter crafts in class. We have created Easter bunny art. We made the outline of a rabbit and used a cotton wool ball as the rabbit's tail. Why not create an Easter hunt at home following the Easter Bunnies foot prints around the house or plant sweets into plant pots for them to 'magically' grow into Easter eggs the next morning.
- **Neptune** have been busy with Easter activities - painting patterns on Easter Eggs in Maths, writing Easter messages in English and, probably best of all, following directions on an Easter Egg hunt!
- **Caterpillars** Class have enjoyed reading different stories this half term. Our favourite was Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We enjoyed finding and making our own Golden Tickets.
- In **Venus** class we have been having lots of fun learning about Easter. We have made some lovely Easter cards, some Easter baskets and have decorated some beautiful and colourful Easter eggs. We are going to be making some chocolate Easter eggs nests and can't wait to try the yummy chocolate!
- In **Mercury** class we have been having lots of fun making Easter cards for our families. We are also going to take part in our very own Easter egg hunt by exploring lots of different areas outside and around the school...we hope to find lots of yummy chocolate eggs!
- **Jupiter** class celebrated World Book Day with a visit to the local library and took part in a story-telling which was been enjoyed by all the pupils.



# Easter Term Activities continued....

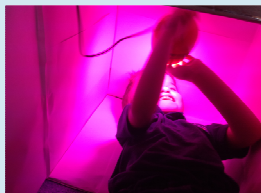
- In **Giraffes** class we have had lots of fun making Easter egg baskets for our Easter egg hunt. We made them using card, feathers, glitter and ribbon. We have also enjoyed making chick cup cakes and Easter egg biscuits.



- On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016, the day after Palm Sunday, the pupils in **Bumblebees** and **Butterflies** Classes went to Bromley Methodist Church to take part in the Easter Experience. After having a very short talk about some of the events that take place leading up to Easter, pupils and staff walked around the church engaging in hands-on activities that helped the pupils to role play some of the events, like: waving the palm fronds as if Jesus were riding on his colt; pretending to take part in the Last Supper by breaking bread and eating grapes. Pupils also pretended to sit in the Garden of Gethsemane. They could even see a dark cave with the stone at the front rolled away. All of the pupils really enjoyed their visit and finished off with some refreshments; a drink and an angel biscuit.



- In **Challenger** class, we have been looking forward to 'World Book Day' for a long time as we are all such amazing readers! A lot of us came in to school dressed up. There were a few 'Where's Wallys' and lots of Disney Princesses. In Literacy, we all wrote fantastic acrostic poems for our hand-made book covers and then in Art we decorated our own book marks for when we have our reading time in class.
- On Thursday 17th, March, **Earth** and **Apollo** delivered a fun interactive assembly celebrating St Patrick's Day. We told the story of a boy called Patrick who went on an adventure to find a pot of gold. He met many characters along the way including a leprechaun DJ, a dance crew and the audience helped him discover where the gold was hidden.
- Leopards** Class have been enjoying some lovely sensory Easter activities. We made shaving foam Easter eggs, counted them and added marshmallows and sprinkles. We also loved a cooking session where we made chocolate Easter egg nest cakes and filled them with mini eggs!
- In **Pandas** class, we have been exploring everything to do with Easter. We have been having Easter egg hunts around our classroom and using our increasing physical skills to find the hidden eggs with our favourite things inside of them.



- The **Zebbras** have really enjoyed learning about Easter. We have been popping different colour balloons filled with glitter, shapes, paint and even tiny chicks. We have also enjoyed going on Easter Egg hunts around the school! This term we have also been doing lots of gardening. We made grass heads and enjoyed cutting their grass hair. We also planted daffodils and have been very careful with our watering skills!



## Performing Arts News

### Wind, Rain and Fire

On 23rd March we held a triumphant performance of 'Wind, Rain and Fire'. A real performing arts showcase, displaying our pupils' talents in music, drama and dance. 'Wind, Rain, Fire' gave the show the perfect theme to allow our pupils to be super creative and get heavily involved in the creation process. The audience was blown away by the standard and talent our pupils demonstrated.

### Family Project

We have 19 families involved in our family project this year. Our first session was held last week with the adults involved. We had a 30-minute movement session and then spent time discussing the project and where families would like to go with it. It was a really inspiring session and we are all looking forward to getting stuck in to rehearsals!

## PE News

This term we are excited to announce 8 more pupils from the secondary and 6th form phase have passed their Level 1 Swimming For Schools badges. We have also won our first Under 19s SLSL Football League Cup, *and* Jake and Max from the secondary phase been asked to attend Kent County cricket and football trials. Well done everyone. We are very proud of your achievements.

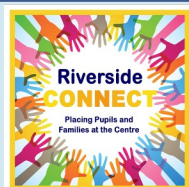
## World Book Day & Onesie Wednesday in Pictures.....



### **Farewell**

Shirley Patterson, Bumblebees Class teacher, is retiring at Easter. Shirley has had a long and distinguished career in a number of London schools and on behalf of everyone at Riverside School, we wish you all the very best for the future. Shirley, you deserve some quality Shirley-time and do keep in touch! With love from all your friends at Riverside School.

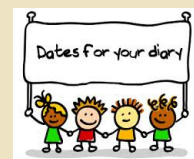
Caroline Berry has decided not to return after her maternity leave, we also wish her a fond farewell.



Thank you to families who joined us at Riverside Connect this month. Our next event is on 10th May with a focus on Read Write Inc. and Early Phonic sounds. We do hope you can join us.

For more information about Riverside Connect events, and photos of past events, please visit the Working Together section/Engagement with Families page of our website [www.riversideschool.org.uk](http://www.riversideschool.org.uk)

*Happy Easter!*



**Further details for any specific events will follow**

11/04/16	Staff Training Day (no school for pupils)
02/05/16	Bank holiday
10/05/16	Riverside Connect
26/05/16	Options Parents Morning
26/05/16	Professional Show Fundraiser
07/06/16	Riverside Connect
18/06/16	Summer Fair
29/06/16	Beckenham Show & Leavers Assembly
01/07/16	Primary SPC Sports Day
05/07/16	SPC Parents Evening
06/07/16	Beckenham Parents Evening
06/07/16	End of Year Musical
12/07/16	Riverside Connect
14/07/16	SPC Leavers Assembly
15/07/16	Beckenham Sports Day
15/07/16	SPC Leavers Prom

**Natalie Tuck is Fundraising for Riverside**

On Saturday 9th April, Natalie Tuck, Mum to James in the Secondary phase at Riverside, is taking part in the British Military Major Series obstacle challenge in Tunbridge Wells to raise money for Riverside. Some of the challenges she will be facing are a real test of strength and endurance with obstacles involving crawling through muddy ditches under barbed wire, wobbly rope bridges and being submerged under marine barriers! Please do visit her fundraising page at

<https://www.justgiving.com/Natalie-Tuck/>



A HUGE THANK YOU Natalie. We wish you the very best of luck on the day.

**What's Cooking in the Riverside Kitchen? - Mothership Beef Mince**

(from [jamiesshomemecooking.com](http://jamiesshomemecooking.com))

**Ingredients**

- 2 red onions
- 2 carrots
- 2 sticks of celery
- 2 sprigs of fresh rosemary
- 2 rashers of higher-welfare smoked streaky bacon or pancetta
- olive oil
- 500g lean beef mince
- 1 x 400g tin chopped tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon tomato purée
- 1 tablespoon balsamic or red wine vinegar
- 3 fresh bay leaves
- 1 organic low-salt beef stock cube
- freshly ground black pepper

**Method**

- Peel and finely chop the onions and carrots, trim and finely chop the celery, pick and finely chop the rosemary leaves
- Finely slice the bacon or pancetta
- Heat 1 tablespoon of oil in a large saucepan on a medium-high heat, add the bacon, rosemary and veg, then cook with the lid ajar for 10 to 15 minutes, or until softened and just turning golden, stirring occasionally
- Stir in the mince. Turn the heat up to high and cook for 5 to 10 minutes, or until browned all over, stirring and breaking it up with a spoon as you go
- Add the tomatoes, tomato purée, vinegar and bay leaves
- Fill and boil the kettle
- Crumble in the stock cube then pour in 400ml of boiling water
- Stir well, turn the heat up to high and bring to the boil
- Season with pepper, reduce to a low heat, then cover and simmer for around 1 hour, stirring occasionally
- Remove the lid and continue cooking for 15 to 20 minutes, or until thickened and reduced
- Have a taste and season with a little more pepper or vinegar, if you think it needs it
- Carefully pick out and discard the bay leaves, then serve – it's delicious with mashed potato and seasonal greens.

