

Dear Families,

When our pupils arrive at school in the morning, they are greeted at the front door by staff who are totally committed to ensuring their day is filled with joy and happiness. The first thing your child will experience could be a favourite song whispered in their ear; a high five; a conversation about their journey or a shared moment basking in the sunshine or sheltering from the rain. For all of us at Riverside, it is all about relationships, a sense of connection, and creating shared memories.

For one of our inspiring teaching assistants, Sharon Porter, that commitment to making a real difference to children and families was evident every single day and it is with real sadness that I must share with you that Sharon recently passed away, following a courageous battle against cancer. Sharon, you have touched so many lives in your long and distinguished time with us and we will never forget the joy and happiness that you brought to all of us. Sharon, this poem is for you.

Steve Solomons
Headteacher



**One song can spark a moment,
 One flower can wake the dream.
 One tree can start a forest,
 One bird can herald spring.
 One smile begins a friendship,
 One handclasp lifts a soul.
 One star can guide a ship at sea,
 One word can frame the goal.
 One vote can change a nation,
 One sunbeam lights a room.
 One candle wipes out darkness,
 One laugh will conquer gloom.
 One step must start each journey,
 One word must start each prayer.
 One hope will raise our spirits,
 One touch can show you care.
 One voice can speak with wisdom,
 One heart can know what's true.
 One life can make the difference,
 You see, it's up to you.**



Around The World



This half-term, we have particularly enjoyed participating in the following activities relating to our topic 'Around The World':

- **Mercury** have been having a great time going 'Around the World' as part of our new topic. We had lots of fun getting onto the plane and flying up, up and away! We then landed in Antarctica exploring the windy weather and all the snow and then back up to visit Africa where we have been searching for animals in the desert. We are looking forward to our next adventure somewhere in the world.
- In **Venus** class we are really enjoying our 'Around the World' topic. So far we have been to Africa and enjoyed playing African drums, trying couscous, feeling the elephant's ears and seeing what comes out of the elephant's trunk. We have also been to Antarctica where we have enjoyed seeing the snow and feeling the ice, finding the animals in the icy water and listening to the wind machines. We are looking forward to our next plane ride - see you there!
- **Koalas** have been visiting a different country each week and making their traditional food. We went to Mexico to make Chicken Wraps and to China to make Vegetable Stir Fry!
- In **Pandas** class, we are exploring the food of many different countries. So far, we have tasted the spices and food of Mexico and the flavours of China. In the coming weeks, we will be tasting American, German and Australian food. Which country does your favourite food come from?
- In **Pluto**, we've already visited Greece this half term where we did some traditional Greek dancing before flying on to Italy where we indulged in some of the local cuisine. We all particularly enjoyed making Gelatos using lots of different delicious toppings.
- This term **Earth** class have been travelling to different countries including Spain, Russia and Argentina. We enjoyed acting out a scene at Gatwick Airport in which we all had to check in to receive our boarding passes. Then we all went to Passport Control to get our passports checked. We then had an amazing time in the new iCAB where we experienced take off and landing in our very own airplane.
- **Challenger** Class have been learning various topics for around the world. Our favourite part so far was looking at timetables and learning how to read bus and train times. Some of us could find the correct time in the table and others even worked out how long a journey would take!
- On Tuesday 26th April as part of our "Around the World" topic, **Discovery** Class visited the school's new iCAB and were able to experience taking a flight to sunny Spain. Each pupil took their own passport which was stamped at passport control and carefully watched the in-flight safety information before ensuring their seatbelts were securely fastened. They loved joining in with the "Flying High" song for take off and landing and also dressing up as pilots and air stewards. We cannot wait to see what the iCAB will become for our next topic!
- In **Neptune** we have been travelling the world tasting foods from many countries along the way. We have become excellent food critics and are already planning next weeks menus!
- In **Hippos** class this half term we are going to be celebrating different cultures from around the world. We are exploring the traditional music of different countries and we are also investigating different sorts of instruments to make our own Hippos music. We love making sounds with everyday objects like bendy pipes or rustley paper. At home you could try investigating sound too and see what you can find that makes the most interesting noises.
- **Butterflies** have loved listening to soundscapes from different environments all over the world. They have helped us imagine the journey our balloons might take and the things they might see. We closed our eyes and listened to sounds from various settings and identified the different noises we could hear e.g. cows mooing, tractors, a spade digging, chickens clucking etc. and then used these sound clues to guess where our balloon was, in this example a farmyard. Once we established where the balloon was, we discussed what it might look like and the things that it might see. This was an excellent way to get the pupils using their vocabulary in discussion, particularly adjectives, and provided us with an excellent word bank to use in our written work, describing the journey we imagined for our balloons. Try sitting down as a family and listening the different sounds and see where your imaginations take you! Here are some links to some soundscapes available on Youtube:



Farm: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4cm3AJDPAQ>

Countryside: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzuhuYjXFD0>

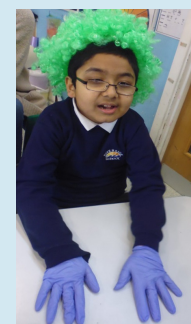
Nature Sounds: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKFTSSKcZWA>

Around The World continued....

- The **Zebras** have loved learning about different transport that we can use to travel the world. We have enjoyed visiting the iCAB (our virtual aeroplane experience) and riding a Rocket ship (The iJoy). The Zebras thoroughly enjoyed dressing up as part of the experience!



- In **Penguins** Class we have been having so much fun whilst learning lots about our new topic 'Around The World'. During story sessions we have already explored lots of different items which we should pack in our suitcase and even some items which should not be in our suitcases. For example, one of the little Penguins found our favourite moving toy dog in the class suitcase, so we all worked as a team to wake him up and safely took him back to his home as it was not safe for him to travel in our suitcase. Thank you again little Penguins for always helping others!
- In **Giraffes** class we really enjoyed our 'Icelandic' themed cookery session where we made our own milkshakes. We had so much fun putting all the ingredients into a blender and then taking turns to switch it on.
- **Jupiter** pupils have had a great time making Greek salad and dips as they explored Greek culture. We are currently focusing on India and all the pupils liked smelling aromatic spices and have embraced Bollywood dance in style wearing beautiful Indian costumes!
- In **Fireflies** class we have loved posting messages in balloons, blowing them up and letting them go. We then popped the balloons and looked at our messages.
- **Grasshoppers** have enjoyed our topic of stories where we have been having sensory experiences learning about Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We really liked dressing up as Oompa Loompas! We also encountered lots of scary animals as we participated in our story 'We're Going on a Lion Hunt'.
- **Mars** class' favourite 'Around The World' activity so far has been taking part in food tasting. We all enjoyed eating a wide selection of foods from vegetable samosas to croissants. We use a huge range of language to describe the foods we tasted including "delicious", "evil" and "spicy".
- In **Caterpillars** Class we have really enjoyed our class story "Blue Balloon". We liked getting messy making blue balloon models out of Paper Mache.
- In **Elephants** class we have been exploring what we might pack in our suitcase! We have been singing "We're all going on a summer holiday, let's see what we have in our suitcase..." To the tune of 'We're all going on a Summer Holiday'. We have then been putting different holiday items in our case or looking at what we could put into the case to take on holiday. It's been so much fun!
- In **Leopards** Class we have really enjoyed sensory stories about going to different places around the world. So far we have engaged in sensory stories about going to Mexico, Egypt and Iceland. Most recently, for our Icelandic sensory story, we used a wind-up helicopter to fly to Iceland, then we painted the sky and dripped blue-coloured water from a bottle onto paper to represent the Blue Lagoon in Iceland. Lastly, we counted paper people and added them to the water. After this we each created our own Icelandic pictures. We had lots of fun! We have also been cooking 'Around the World' foods each week and trying different things, as well as listening to music from different places around the world. We cannot wait to see which countries we will explore next!



Birdbox Project

This year we are taking part in the Birdbox South East project. We have had a birdbox complete with webcam installed in the sensory garden at Riverside Beckenham. This webcam feed is streamed directly on to the Birdbox South East website, along with the webcam feeds of over 60 other schools in the South East.



We were very excited to discover that a nest has already been made and a number of eggs laid. We are hopeful that we will see the eggs hatching in due course.

Follow the progress of this wonderful project with a direct link to live streaming from inside our birdbox here:

<http://birdbox.seenature.org.uk/schools/riverside-school/>

SMSC at Riverside

What is SMSC?

SMSC stands for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. At Riverside School we want to promote SMSC and show how well our pupils develop in this area. We accomplish this in many different ways, every single day, at Riverside and want to celebrate our achievements.

Spiritual – Explore beliefs and experience; respect faiths, feelings and values; enjoy learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity; reflect.


Moral – Recognise right and wrong; respect the law; understand consequences; investigate moral and ethical issues; offer reasoned views.

Social – Use a range of social skills; participate in the local community; appreciate diverse viewpoints; participate, volunteer and cooperate; resolve conflict; engage with the 'British values' of democracy, the rule of law, liberty, respect and tolerance.

Cultural – Appreciate cultural influences; appreciate the role of Britain's parliamentary system; participate in culture opportunities; understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity.


We would like to know of any significant dates and events which are special to each family and embrace these through activities and learning at school. In the next couple of weeks we will be sending home a template for you to fill out and also ask that you send in any artefacts, important items of clothing, pictures, photos for our SMSC display cabinet. It would also be great to find out what languages our pupils speak at home and any customs that you follow as a family.

We really want to celebrate the differences and variety of our families that we have at Riverside School and look forward to the exciting things we will learn.



Riverside School

Be all that you can be



Dear Families, At Riverside School we are committed to ensuring that we include a rich variety of events and celebrations within our curriculum and every day teaching. To help ensure this happens we are creating a calendar of events. Please use this table to record any special Cultural, Religious or Personal Events that you celebrate or think about at home. We will then consider how we can reflect this at school. Thank you from Katie, Jenna and Jess (class teachers and SMSC Team).

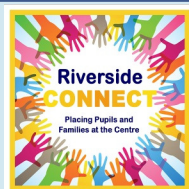
Pupils name: Class:

Date: 25 December Event: Christmas Day Brief explanation: please include a brief explanation of anything you do as a family or personally during this special time.	Date: Event: Brief explanation:
Date: Event: Brief explanation:	Date: Event: Brief explanation:
Date: Event: Brief explanation:	Date: Event: Brief explanation:

Farewell

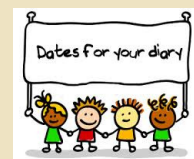
Rose Nelligan, Administrator, retired this month. Rose has worked for Riverside and formerly Rectory Paddock for 13 years. Rose, thank you for all your admin and personnel support. You deserve some quality time with your family and do keep in touch! We also wish a fond farewell to Lydia Quigley and Alex Donovan, Teaching Assistants. Thank you for all you have contributed to both Woodbrook and Riverside pupils over your time here.

We wish you all the very best for the future.



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



Further details for any specific events will follow

02/05/16	Bank holiday
10/05/16	Riverside Connect
25/05/16	Family MakaChat
26/05/16	Options Parents Morning
26/05/16	Professional Show Fundraiser
07/06/16	Riverside Connect
10/06/16	Family MakaChat
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	Family MakaChat
06/07/16	Beckenham Parents Evening
06/07/16	End of Year Musical
07/07/16	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

Well Done and Thank You Natalie!



On Saturday 9th April, Natalie Tuck, Mum to James in the Secondary phase at Riverside, took part in the British Military Major Series obstacle challenge in Tunbridge Wells and has raised over £3100 for Riverside School. The photos show some of the challenging obstacles Natalie was faced with. Thank you so much Natalie. We are very grateful for your efforts and support.



What's Cooking in the Riverside Kitchen? - Spaghetti with Red Pesto

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 50g pine nuts
- 20 basil leaves plus extra for garnish
- 150g sun-dried tomatoes in olive oil
- 4 cloves of garlic
- extra virgin olive oil
- 80g freshly grated parmesan cheese
- 500g spaghetti
- salt and pepper to taste



Method

- Toast the pine nuts in a frying pan over a medium heat until golden brown all over. Leave to cool
- Put the basil, sun-dried tomatoes and garlic in a food processor and blitz, drizzling in enough of the oil until you have a smooth paste.
- Add the pine nuts and blitz again until creamy. Add a touch more oil if necessary.
- Transfer the mixture to a large bowl and mix in the parmesan cheese. Season to taste.
- Cook the spaghetti according to packet instructions then drain. And toss into the pesto until all the pasta is coated.
- Serve with a few extra torn basil leaves.



Riverside PSFA

Summer Fair Riverside St Paul's Cray

Saturday 18th June - 12 noon until 2pm

Save the date!

There will be lots of great activities, refreshments and a fun Hawaiian theme so do come along and have fun...

Can you help? We need:

Raffle prizes; Cakes; Tombola prizes

Looking forward to seeing you there.

For more information contact PSFA@riverside.bromley.sch.uk