



Autumn 2 2024

As Christmas fast approaches, it has started to become very festive at Riverside. We all thoroughly enjoyed our annual 'Decoration Morning'. It was fabulous to see so many parents and carers in school, getting stuck into the arts and crafts and getting covered in glitter! We held our first ever 'Santa Dash' that day also and I am thrilled to report that as a school we have raised over £2000 for our Loros charity campaign. Amazing work to all my little Christmas superstars!

The whole school loved seeing our EYFS children in their first school Nativity. As always, these children blew us all away with their singing and acting. The rest of school have been enjoying practising their Christmas Carols and singing them to parents and carers each afternoon this week. We have had our annual Christmas dinner and joined in with our Christmas Jumper day. So, the festive bells have certainly rung loud at Riverside!

As we end this Autumn term, we say a fond farewell to Miss Chavda who is off to explore corners new. Mrs Perry leaves us to have her baby in the new year, we wish her all the best and look forward to hearing baby news. As you are aware Mrs Valand is retiring at the end of this term, it was lovely to see her back at school this afternoon to say her goodbyes to the children and staff.

With every end there is a new beginning and we are excited to welcome Mr Page (Y4 Mumbai), Mrs Share (Y6 Buenos Aires) as well as Mrs Roberts who will be taking the reins from me as Head of School at Riverside. I will remain ever present at Riverside in my Executive Head role and will commence a steady hand over to Mrs Roberts across the Spring Term. Mrs Roberts has written a little piece about herself for you to read in the newsletter.

It goes without saying that I am forever grateful for your amazing support!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year 😊

C Williams



Star Award

Congratulations to all our superstar pupils that have received a star award this term. Well done and continue the hard work.





A message from Mrs Valand

As you will be aware I am retiring from my post at Riverside at the end of this term. Although I am looking forward to the retirement life, leaving the wonderful community of parents, children and staff that I have worked with over the years is bittersweet. The children have always been at the centre of my heart.

Over the years, I have had the privilege watching them grow, learn and transform into incredible individuals they are today. It has been a pleasure to be a part of their lives.

I also had the pleasure to teach so many of your children and I was always proud of them. I felt I learnt a lot from the children too.

I was honoured to have worked with the amazing parents at Riverside. I will miss you all, especially the morning meet and greets I had with you on the playground.

My role changed on many occasions during my time at school, but you all made it easy for me as I had the staff, children and parents supporting me in fulfilling my role.

I will be taking a lot of memories away with me such as, Culture Day, Career Days, Parent Workshops and many more.

Riverside is a great school and your children are lucky to have a team of staff that are passionate and dedicated to their roles, starting from the office staff, teachers, associate staff, dinner supervisors, premises manager to the cleaners. Above all the Executive Principal Mrs Williams.

I wish you all the best and please remind your children to "Believe and Achieve" and never to give up. 💪

Mrs Valand 😊👋



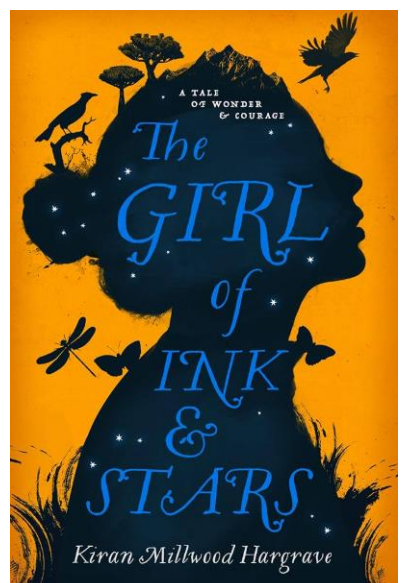
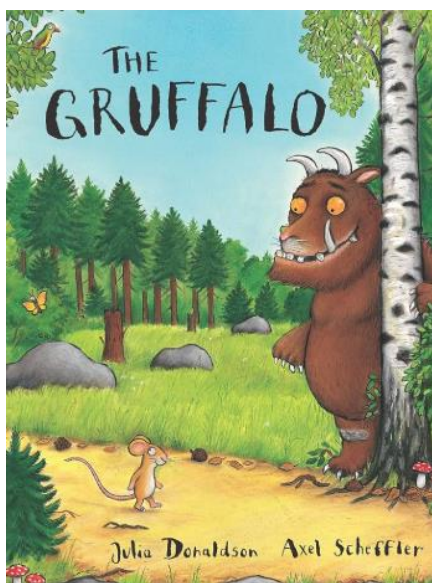
Welcome to our new Head of School

I am Mrs Roberts and I am very excited to be joining Riverside Academy as the new Head of School in January.

I have thoroughly enjoyed spending a few days in Riverside meeting the children and staff. I am really looking forward to meeting you all in the new year. You will see me on the gates welcoming you back to school after our Christmas holidays.

Here is a little bit of information about me!

I have been a teacher for many years and have previously been a headteacher. My favourite things to do are spend time with my family, have trips to the theatre, sing in the choir I go to and make creations in my pottery classes. I love to read and have many favourite books. Some of my favourites are, 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson, 'The diary of a killer cat' by Anne Fine, 'The girl of the ink and stars' by Kiran Millwood Hargrave and 'Pax' by Sara Pennypacker. My favourite films are all of the Harry Potter films. I am really looking forward to working with you all in January. Have a peaceful and restful Christmas.

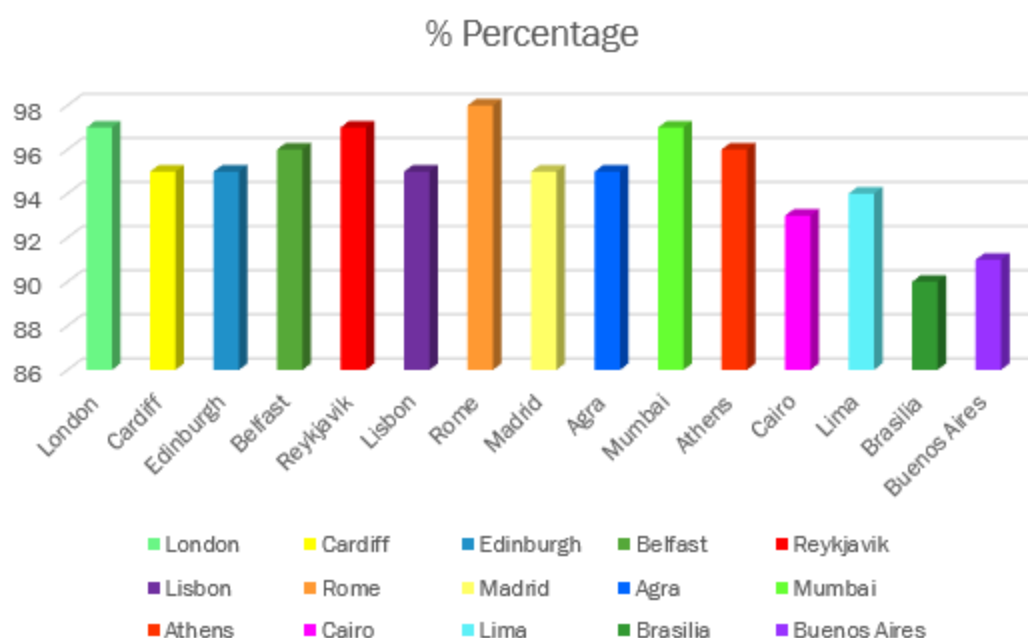




Attendance

Each half term, the class with the highest attendance will be rewarded with an afternoon of an activity of their choice.

Congratulations to **Rome** who have the highest attendance for this half term.



Reporting your child's absence

To report your child's absence from school due to sickness, please contact the school with a reason for your child's absence. Either call the school on 0116 2107373 before 8:30am and leave a message, or send an email to the school office, office@riversideacademy.org.uk

Please ensure you make non-urgent appointments e.g. to the dentist in the school holidays or after school.

Exceptional Circumstances

Requests for leave can only be granted in exceptional circumstances, a holiday would not be considered exceptional and may incur a penalty notice fine.

Punctuality

Children must be in school on time, the school doors open at **8:30am** and are closed at 8:35am. When a child arrives late for school, they miss the introduction to the day and valuable learning time. It is also vital that children are collected on time at the end of the day. Being late for school and being picked up late can also be very distressing for the child. Punctuality is monitored very closely on a weekly basis.



EYFS

What a wonderful way to end a brilliant first term at school. We had so much fun making Christmas crafts with our families on Decoration Day, then we showed off our singing and acting skills by performing our nativity. It has been a truly magical time in Foundation Stage.

From all the Foundation Stage team, we wish you all a Merry Christmas!





Year 1

Our Year 1 children have made it to the end of the Autumn term. This is always a very busy term for our children, with lots of new things to get used to. Each child has shown hard work, commitment and growth and we are so proud.

In English we have been learning to plan our own amazing adventures for Stickman. The children had so many fantastic ideas about where Stickman went and they did a brilliant job in writing their own stories. In maths we have been regularly practising our number formation as well as learning to add and subtract using a number line. We have also dug deeper into 2D and 3D shapes by exploring their properties in different ways such as shape hunts, songs, making shapes and using them to complete challenges. This half term, we learnt about Birstall in our geography topic. We identified human and physical features on a map and by going on a detective walk around our school. In science, we have learnt about Autumn and more recently what types of weather we may get. Our PE topics have led us to develop our core muscles through gymnastics and movement through dance. In DT, we made moving pictures and used this to turn our Stickman story adventures into moving books!

Our term has come to an end with lots of festive activities that all our children have enjoyed. Firstly, thank you for attending decorations morning. We had so many family members attend and help create some fantastic decorations which we all hope are on display in your homes! The children had a fantastic time making ornaments to hang and crafting wreaths and Santa faces. The Year 1 Christmas carol Concert was a delight! The children had lots of fun learning all their songs, making hats to wear and decorations to sell. Thank you to everyone that showed us their support.

A gentle reminder to label all items that come into school, especially jumpers and cardigans.

Please continue to support the children in their learning journey with regular opportunities for them to read and do approach us if you have any questions, we are always happy to help.

Mrs Sitaram and Miss Feeley







Year 2

Tamworth Castle

Year 2 have been on a trip this term to Tamworth Castle to link with our History theme of Castles and Knights. Whilst there, the children enjoyed two workshops. The first was a workshop with a Squire who taught the children all about the knight's armour and how to put it on – they remembered a lot from our History lessons which impressed the teachers and the Squire!

They then got to take part in some battle moves in the great hall with their own (foam) weapon.

In the second workshop, the children got to meet the Lady of the Castle who showed them how to set a table ready for a banquet. The children enjoyed learning all about the different table settings as well as the food they would have eaten – did you know, if you were wealthy, you would eat meat such as boar and even swan?

The final part of our trip saw the children enjoy exploring the castle where we got to walk along the battlements and see where the Lords and servants would have slept. Overall, the trip was a huge success and the children have made us all proud of them!





Year 3

What a busy but brilliant term it has been in Year 3!

English

In English we have been exploring *Journey and Stone Age boy*. The children have been developing their imagination and creativity to write their own stories. They have also been using their knowledge of the Stone Age to write explanation text. These last two weeks the children have been writing the story of The Bear and The Hare using lots of descriptive language.

Maths

In Maths, we have been focusing on multiplication and division. The children have been using their skills across the 2s, 4s and 8 times table. We are incredibly proud of how hard they are working.

Art/ French

We have been learning various sketching techniques in our Art lessons such as hatching, crosshatching and stippling and the children have thoroughly enjoyed forming 'Human sentences' that contain adjectives in French! Tres bien!

PE

In PE, we have been learning how to play netball and using the different skills. The children have thoroughly enjoyed playing against each other in a netball game. We have also been practising our rhythm in our Drumba lessons.

Thank you to all the adults who joined us for our Christmas decoration morning and carol concert,

we hoped you enjoyed it as much as we did.

We hope you all enjoy the Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in the new year! Thank you for all your continued support.





Year 4

Wow! What another exciting and jam packed half term it has been for Year 4. All pupils have continued to engage with their learning across the curriculum. We are incredibly proud of all our Riverside superstars for working so hard, over such a long term too!

English

Our English lessons have focused on the completion of the narrative of Edward Tulane with the writing of Edward's character description and how his character has changed. Edward has experienced the most amazing journey of self-discovery and hope. But most of all, love. Children have had to really consider the feelings and emotions of Edwards journey and justify their own thoughts about his character. I wonder if your child/children can express and retell the adventures Edward has been on and how this affected his character.

Children have also written non-chronological reports about Leicester. They engaged with proactive research using technology, planned their reports and published them onto posters.

Character Award

The Character Award has been a fantastic opportunity for the children to develop personally and work collaboratively in overcoming a variety of different weekly challenges. Are they able to identify and discuss their own journey of personal growth and development, like Edward Tulane, by discussing the following reflective questions?

- 1.What challenges did you face during the Character Award activities? How did you overcome them?**
- 2.Can you think of a time when you helped someone else in your team? How did it make you feel?**
- 3.What new skills or strengths have you discovered about yourself?**
- 4.How do you think you've grown as a person since starting the Character Award?**
- 5.What are you most proud of achieving, and why?**

Maths

In Maths, our focus has been on multiplication and division and really embedding these key skills through exciting practical activities and theory-based learning. We explored how to use arrays, grouping, sharing and to complete problem-solving challenges. We continue to practice our times tables knowledge to improve our recall speed and accuracy. We used real-life examples, like sharing items equally or arranging objects into groups, to understand how multiplication and division work. Children have been able to explain their thinking and use what they have learned to tackle questions with confidence. It's been a fun and busy half term in maths and we're proud of how much we've achieved!





Science

This term, the children have been buzzing with excitement as they explored the fascinating world of electricity! The children have truly enjoyed every moment of their learning journey, which has been packed with discovery and hands-on activities.

Our young scientists began by identifying common appliances that run on electricity, sparking curiosity about how they work. They then took on the challenge of constructing simple series electrical circuits, confidently naming basic components such as wires, batteries, bulbs, and switches. It was incredible to see their teamwork and problem-solving skills in action!

To take their understanding even further, the children conducted an experiment to investigate conductors and insulators. They tested various materials, discovering which ones allow electricity to flow and which ones block it. Their enthusiasm and inquisitiveness were inspiring as they drew conclusions from their observations.

It has been wonderful to see the children's excitement and engagement throughout the term. We are so proud of their hard work and curiosity, and we can't wait to see where their learning will take them next!

Here's to a bright and electrifying future in Year 4!

Everybody within Year 4 would like to say a huge thank you to Miss Chavda, who sadly is leaving us to begin her own new adventures, and we wish her all the very best.

Well done to all our Year 4 children for an amazing half-term. We would like to thank you all for your continued support and wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas break! 😊





Year 5

What a busy half term! Year 5 have had the most amazing time exploring a range of topics and practising and up levelling our skills.

The children have completed their learning about Ancient Greece in History. Why not ask them about the Trojan Horse?!

Our Art has linked beautifully with the History- the children designed and made their own Greek pots with a purpose. They used traditional colours and patterns inspired by our Greek learning. The children were extremely proud of their products.

During our Computing lessons, we've been developing budding directors- recording video and editing. We've explored different filming techniques including panning and tilting.

We have also been preparing ourselves for the wider world by exploring how to save money and spend money sensibly.

During P.E. lessons we have looked at Bollywood dancing and singing our hearts out whilst learning key steps to line dancing. We are now cowboy and cowgirl extraordinaires.

We have spent this last week completing Christmas arts and crafts ready for our PTA competition and spending time with our friends before an extremely well-deserved break. Thank you so much for all your support with us and the children, we hope you have a wonderful Christmas and great new year!





Year 6

Pioneer Week

Last month, our Year 6 students had an unforgettable adventure during the Pioneer School Trip, which took place over five action-packed days. Students ventured to the outdoors for a variety of high ropes and adventurous activities designed to challenge their teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving skills.

The trip was a fantastic success, with many students conquering personal challenges and growing in confidence. The memories from these days will be cherished by all involved.

Chocolate Week

Our students, who did not attend Pioneer, indulged in a deliciously sweet week during Chocolate Week! This event allowed the children to explore the world of chocolate in both fun and educational ways.

Decorations Day and Santa Dash

On Decorations Day, our students got into the Christmas spirit by making festive Christmas decorations! Thank you for everyone who was able to join us for the morning and got involved in the activities; it was amazing to see all the creativity from our children and adults! We also took part in the Santa Dash, which was amazing to see the children running around in all their Christmas attire.

Exploring A Christmas Carol

In English lessons, our students have been diving into Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. This classic tale of kindness, generosity, and redemption has been a fantastic addition to our curriculum this month. This study has been an excellent way for students to develop their understanding of classic literature and its themes, while also embracing the Christmas spirit.

Mrs Perry

It wouldn't be right to write this newsletter without a mention of Mrs Perry and her lovely baby bump! We have loved having Mrs Perry teaching Buenos Aires and she will be missed, after Christmas, when she will be beginning her maternity leave. We wish her all the best!

With that in mind, we are excited to welcome Mrs Share to join our Year 6 Team and teach Buenos Aires in the new year.





Santa Dash

This term, Riverside took part in the national Santa Dash. Children were challenged to run as many laps as they could in 20 minutes. It was a fantastic event in which every class took part, with energetic running, skipping and walking. A huge thank you to everyone who sponsored the children. Thanks to generous contributions, we have raised over £2000 for Loros and have smashed our target to be able to take part in the 'Loros Stomp About'. We are all very proud of how well all the children did.



Sport

Well done to all three boys' football teams along with the two girls' football teams. They all performed extremely well and showed all the spirit, resilience and determination that the school embodies. All teams will start again in the new year to test themselves again.

This term has also seen teams from Riverside take part in dodgeball, indoor athletics and table tennis. All the children involved showed great team spirit and enjoyed learning new skills and competing for the school.

Finally, a huge well done to all the children who took part in the cross country this term. It shows great dedication to compete on Saturday mornings in the cold and wet. They made us all proud! There are many more competitions coming up in the new year. We look forward to see as many children take part in competitions and gain new experiences.



French

Bonjour tout!

We have had a great term learning French and during the first week of December, we had a group of enthusiastic Year 10 students from The Cedars come to Riverside teaching the year 6 pupils and a year 4 class. The children thoroughly enjoyed having older students teaching and guiding them! Equally, the year 10 students gained confidence and were very generous to share their knowledge and passion for the French language!

Merci beaucoup!

Mrs Bhavsar





Charity news

Thank you to our fantastic community who have contributed to our chosen charities over the past few months.

You have helped to raise an amazing **£871.07** for The Royal British Legion, **£157.30** for Children in Need and a staggering **£2000** in our Santa Dash for LOROS. You make such a difference we are so incredibly proud of you.

Upcoming events Comic Relief – Friday 21st March 2025



PTA news

A huge thank you for all the support from parents/carers this term, by way of donations for the Christmas fair and support at discos. We hope the children enjoyed their discos and had lots of fun at them.



Despite the awful weather, we had a successful turn out at the Christmas Fair and the children that attended had a great time in the Elf Workshop. We raised an amazing **£1035.15**.





Diary dates

- 7th January 2025 – School opens
- W/C 27th January 2025 - Open classrooms - days tbc
- 14th February 2025 - Last day of term
- **17th - 21st February 2025 - Half term**
- **24th February 2025 - School opens**
- 28th February 2025 - Year 1 Phonics Screening Check parent meeting
- 6th March 2025 - World Book day
- 13th March 2025 - Year 6 SATs parent meeting
- 25th/26th March 2025 - Parents evening
- 11th April 2025 - Last day of term
- **14th - 25th April 2025 - Easter Holidays**
- **28th April 2025 - School opens**
- **5th May 2025 - Bank Holiday**
- W/C 12th May 2025 – Y6 SATs week
- 21st May 2025 - Year 6 Careers/Enterprise day
- 23rd May 2025 - Last day of term
- **26th - 30th May 2025 - Half term**
- **2nd June 2025 - School opens**
- W/C 2nd June 2025 – Y4 Multiplication Table Check week
- W/C 9th June 2025 – Y1 Phonics screening check and Y2 retake week
- 12th June 2025 - Class photo day
- 16th June 2025 - Sports day
- W/C 30th June 2025 - Open classrooms - days tbc
- 11th July 2025 - Last day of term



Clubs

At Riverside we offer a number of external extra-curricular clubs, some of which are run by Riverside staff and others that are run by external groups.

Visit our website for more details on available clubs

<https://www.riversideacademy.org.uk/extra-curricular/clubs/>

If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium and is interested in joining a club, please speak to the office.

Please see below the timetable for external clubs for the Spring term:

CLUB:	LOCATION:	DAY:	PICK UP FROM:
Football & Fitness (External club) Y2 - Y6 Dodgeball	Orchard playground	Monday	Lawn playground
FOOTBALL & FITNESS (External club) Y1 - Y4 Football	Outside	Tuesday	Lawn playground
Football & Fitness (External club) Y1 - Y3 Gymnastics	Orchard Hall	Wednesday	Lawn playground
FOOTBALL & FITNESS (External club) Y5 & 6 Football	Outside	Thursday	Lawn playground
FOOTBALL & FITNESS (External club) Y1 - Y6 Multisports	Outside	Friday	Lawn playground
Rocksteady (External club) Rock/Pop Lessons	Wellbeing centre	Monday / Wednesday - Mornings	n/a
Magical Maths KS1 & 2	Science Room	Monday	Lawn Playground



Magical Maths is coming to Riverside Primary School!



Dear Parents/Carers,

Professor Poopenshtinken and his friends will be coming to **Riverside Primary School** to introduce a brand new after school club, designed to show your children just how much fun can be had with numbers!

Our fantastic after school clubs will help to boost your child's engagement and enjoyment in maths through really fun and challenging games, tricks and activities.

This **5 week** club begins **Monday 13th January** and is priced at just **£42**. To find out more or to book your child's place, visit our website www.magicalmathsclub.com or call us on **07872 954060** but hurry as places are limited!

*We look forward to welcoming your children
for lots of Mathemagical fun!*



Brand New This Year:

Magical Maths Online is now **FREE** with every booking! Don't miss out on over 260 hours of interactive content designed to compliment our after school clubs and continue the fun and learning from home!

www.magicalmathsclub.com
f [magicalmathsclub](https://www.facebook.com/magicalmathsclub)
MAG002-CVS



RIVERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL SPORTS CLUBS PROGRAMME

WE ARE PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO OFFER YOUR CHILD THE CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE CLUBS AT SCHOOL.

EACH WEEK CONSISTS OF A BRIEF WARM UP, FUN RELATED GAMES WITH THE EMPHASIS FIRMLY ON THE CHILDREN'S ENJOYMENT WHILST THEY ARE LEARNING, STAYING ACTIVE AND ENGAGED THROUGHOUT. ALL ABILITIES, BOYS AND GIRLS ARE WELCOME. YOUR CHILD WILL NEED SUITABLE CLOTHING AND A DRINK IS RECOMMENDED. ALL OUR COACHES ARE FULLY QUALIFIED AND ARE CRB CHECKED TO FURTHER SAFEGUARD YOUR CHILD.

5/6 WEEK TERM FOR CLUBS FROM JAN 7TH – FEB 14TH

DODGEBALL YEARS 2 - 6

MONDAYS

3.15- 4.15 PM 5 WKS £27.50

FOOTBALL YEAR 1 - 4

TUESDAYS

3.15- 4.15 PM 6 WKS £33.00

GYMNASTICS YEAR 1 - 4

WEDNESDAYS

3.15- 4.15 PM 6 WKS £33.00

FOOTBALL YEAR 5 & 6

THURSDAY

3.15- 4.15 PM 6 WKS £33.00

MULTISPORTS YEAR 1 - 6

FRIDAY

3.15- 4.15 PM 6 WKS £33.00

ALL CLUBS WILL RUN FROM 3.15-4.15 PM
CHILDREN TO BE COLLECTED PROMPTLY AT 4:15PM FROM
ORCHARD PLAYGROUND - SESSIONS MAY TAKE INDOORS

HOW TO BOOK

All places must be booked before clubs begin. Requests after this date won't be guaranteed a place

PLEASE BOOK VIA TEXT ONLY

PLEASE CONTACT

Steve Fenton
07738920229

NO FORMS OR MONEY TO BE SENT INTO SCHOOL OFFICE

If your child is not attending any session due to absence please text beforehand so the office can be informed for safeguarding purposes.

All bookings via must be made and place confirmed before attending

CHILDREN TO BE COLLECTED PROMPTLY FROM ORCHARD PLAYGROUND AT 4:15PM

If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium please let us know at the time of booking.

BOOKING FORM - PLEASE TEXT DETAILS IN ORDER TO BOOK A PLACE

RIVERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Course(s) attending (please circle)

MON DODGEBALL YEAR 2 - 6 TUES FOOTBALL YR 1 - 4 WEDS GYMNASTICS YR 1 - 4 THURS FOOTBALL YR 5 & 6

FRI MULTISPORTS YR 1 - 6

Name of child

School Year

Email

Telephone Contacts

Medical Conditions

Child will be collected ☐

Child will walk home ☐

Total payable £

Signed

Please tick if you do not wish your child's picture to be taken for any football & Fitness promotional material ☐





WOULD YOUR CHILD LIKE TO PLAY IN THEIR VERY OWN ROCK BAND?

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CELEBRATING
15 YEARS OF
ROCKSTEADY

Enrol online today at rocksteadymusicschool.com
or call 0330 113 0330 (local rate) 8am-5pm, Mon-Fri

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The start of the new academic year is a great time to begin Rocksteady lessons. Your child can enjoy the magic of music by learning to play in their very own band through weekly in-school rock and pop lessons. It's the perfect chance to learn **new musical skills, while having fun along the way**. Parents often find that Rocksteady lessons also boost **children's confidence, wellbeing, life skills and even academic achievement**.

Your child will progress through the Rocksteady curriculum and collect up to 300 different instrument, musicianship and performance skills along the way.

Here's what you need to know:

- Lessons are held during the school day. There's no experience necessary and all instruments are provided, so it's very **Inclusive** and **accessible**.
- Your child can choose from **drums, vocals, keyboard or electric guitar** (subject to availability). They'll join their bandmates for a weekly 30-minute lesson, where together they'll learn some of their favourite songs.
- You can proudly watch as your child performs in their end of term concerts, showing you and their friends just how far they have come. You can also **follow their musical journey** in your **Parent Timeline** from your Backstage account.
- Loved and trusted by thousands of schools, lessons are taught by experienced professional musicians, who make music education fun. Your child's band leader will **support and inspire** your child while making sure they progress at their own pace.
- Your child will become either a **Mini Rocker** (Reception to Year 2), **Rock Hero** (Year 3 and Year 4) or a **Rock Icon** (Year 5 and Year 6).
- A **highlight of the school week**, your child could enjoy the Rocksteady experience for £37.29 a month (no payment in August). It's **hassle free** with a **money back guarantee** for the first month and you can **cancel at any time**.

Places are offered on a first come, first served basis. Selecting different instrument options will also give you the best chance of getting a place.

To secure your child's spot in the band or to find out more visit www.rocksteadymusicschool.com or call **0330 113 0330**.

Best wishes,
Rachel Hawker | Director of Education



TRINITY
COLLEGE LONDON
Validated Course and
Assessment Provider 69350

ISM
CORPORATE
MEMBER

mia
music industries association

HERE'S WHAT SOME PARENTS AND HEADTEACHERS
HAVE TO SAY ABOUT ROCKSTEADY LESSONS





Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns or safeguarding information, please email DSL@riversideacademy.org.uk

For any Child Safeguarding Concerns outside of school hours, please contact Leicestershire First Response Children's Duty on 0116 305 0005.



We would like to wish all our Riverside families and staff a very Merry Christmas and a happy healthy 2025!

**See you in school on
Tuesday 7th January 2025**