



Each year group has started to explore their exciting topics for Term 3. These are the key questions that will guide their learning this term:

EYFS Starry Night and Winter Wonderland – Does everything go to sleep at night?

Year 1 Dinosaur Planet – How do we know dinosaurs existed?

Year 2 Muck, Mess and Mixtures – What is art?

Year 3 Scrumdiddlyumptious – Where does my food come from?

Year 4 Road Trip - Which city around the world should I visit and why?

Year 5 Chop and Change – What can we learn about Tudor life by looking at their portraits?

Year 6 Frozen Kingdom – How do the polar regions differ?

We are always keen for any parents to get in touch with us if they feel they can enrich our topics by leading a discussion about a related experience or career.



Art Week: 26th-30th January



Art Festival

What is art and why is it so important to the world?

26-30 January 2026

The whole school will come together to explore the question: **What is art, and why is it so important to the world?** This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to engage with various forms of artistic expression, from drawing and printing to digital art through photography. Children will explore different perspectives and styles, and gain a deeper appreciation for the diverse ways in which art reflects and shapes our world. Keep an eye out for updates on class exhibitions throughout the week.

Year 4's Culinary Adventure: A Taste of Africa!

This week, Year 4 learnt how to cook delicious African jollof rice with Shirleen from Taro's Kitchen! Our young chefs donned their aprons and got to work. The delightful smells wafted through the corridors all day, creating a talking point for the whole school. As part of this workshop, musician Peter Alao also introduced children to the enchanting sounds of the African talking drum.

By the end of the workshop, there was very little rice left! It was clear that our Year 4 children not only enjoyed the cooking but also savoured every bite of their creation. We encourage you to continue this culinary journey at home. Why not ask your children to share their newfound skills with you?



To make this workshop possible, we have recently invested in some portable induction hobs and improved cooking resources. This enhancement was made possible thanks to a £1000 grant we received through the Tesco 'Cooking for All' initiative. We look forward to other year groups utilising these resources in the future, as part of our curriculum.

Security Upgrades

You may have noticed some workmen around our school site over the past two weeks. They have been busy installing new electronic entry and exit systems for our external doors. These upgrades are part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring a safe and secure environment for our whole school community.

In addition to the electronic doors, we are also enhancing our main school entry points. This includes the installation of video intercom systems for external gates and the main entrance into the office.

Once the systems have been programmed and are fully operational, we will provide you with an update on any changes you need to be aware of.



Governor Election

Following our recent governor elections, we warmly welcome David Parratt and Tom Woolin, who have been successfully appointed to fulfil the two parent governor roles.

A message from the Governors:

On behalf of the Governing body, I am delighted to announce that following a rigorous recruitment process we have officially appointed Mrs V Alliston as the permanent Headteacher of River Primary school and Mrs J Brown as Deputy Headteacher.

As many of you know, they have served in acting roles for the last academic year. During this time, the Governors have been impressed with the strong leadership, deep commitment to our pupils and clear vision for the school and the Federation.

We look forward to continuing our work together to ensure River School remains a place where every child can thrive.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Hulks

Chair of Governors

Kind regards,

Mrs Victoria Alliston



Diary Dates

Please make sure you take note of the Staff Development days for the year and term dates.

Tuesday 20th January 2026	EYFS Wildwood Trip
Monday 26th January – Friday 30th January 2026	Art Week
Tuesday 27th January 2026	Year 5 Canterbury Trip SEND Parent Coffee Morning 9-10am River parent Coffee morning 9am-10am Tuesday 27th January - Fill in form
Monday 2nd February 2026	EYFS Forest School Year 1 Zoo Trip
Tuesday 3rd February 2026	Year 3 Forest School
Friday 6th February 2026	NSPCC Number Day

	Year 2 Forest School
Monday 9th – Friday 13th February 2026	Children’s Mental Health Week
Tuesday 10th February 2026	Year 5 Money Workshop Year 4 Forest School
Wednesday 11th February 2026	Year 6 Forest School Mid-Year Reports to Parents
Thursday 12th February 2026	Year 5 Forest School
Friday 13th February 2026	Year 1 Forest School Last day of Term 3
Monday 16th – Friday 20th February 2026	Half Term
Monday 23rd February 2026	First Day of Term 4

Our website calendar is always up to date with what is going on in school. [River Primary School - Calendar](#)

Academic Dates for 2025-2026

Staff Development Days	Term Dates 2025-2026
Monday 1 st September 2025	<u>Term 1</u> 2 nd September 2025 – 17 th October 2025
Friday 19 th December 2025	<u>Term 2</u> 27 th October 2025 – 18 th December 2025
Monday 1 st June 2026	<u>Term 3</u> 5 th January 2026 – 13 th February 2026
Monday 20 th July 2026	<u>Term 4</u> 23 rd February 2026 – 2 nd April 2026
Tuesday 21 st July 2026	<u>Term 5</u> 20 th April 2026 – 22 nd May 2026
	<u>Term 6</u> 2 nd June 2026 – 17 th July 2026

This term, we are reading:

EYFS	   
Year 1	 
Year 2	  
Year 3	
Year 4	 
Year 5	 
Year 6	  
SRP	