



River Primary School

Tel: 01304 822516

Part of the Lydden and River Primary Schools Federation

Acting Headteacher : Mrs V Alliston

Issue No 1

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Website: www.river.kent.sch.uk

Welcome back to a new school year! We hope all our families had a wonderful summer and that it hasn't been too challenging adjusting back to routines.

Our School Website

Towards the end of the summer holidays, our website had a bit of a makeover! The updates have made it more user-friendly and appealing, so be sure to check it out at www.river.kent.sch.uk

<https://www.river.kent.sch.uk/class-pages> Use this link to head straight to the class pages to find out all about your child's learning for this term.



EYFS Me and My Community - Who is in my community?

Year 1 Home Sweet Home - What's around us?

Year 2 Towers, Tunnels and Turrets - Why were castles built on the Kent coastline?

Year 3 Through the Ages - How did Britain change from the Stone age to the Iron age?

Year 4 Misty Mountain, Winding River - Are all rivers the same as the River Dour?

Year 5 The Making of Britain – How united is the United Kingdom?

Year 6 Revolution – What did the Victorians do for us?

Developments over the Summer

Over the summer, Mr Ward has been continuing to transform our school making our plans come to life! The area that once was our gardening space, next to the Astro, looked tired and was sadly quite unusable. However, it has now blossomed into our new 'Sunshine Spot'! This new area provides children with a lovely space to sit, chat, or indulge in a good book. It's already becoming a favourite spot for socialising.



That's not all! We've also added a fantastic table tennis area on the field, offering our children another opportunity for fun and active play.

As you are all aware, budgets in schools are tight, but at the end of the last academic year, we were fortunate enough to receive not one but two grants! One from Nationwide to enhance our gardening space and another from Admiral, specifically for developing a pond. A massive thank you for these grants! We decided to combine our resources and create the 'Nature Nook', a space where children can access and enjoy nature in all its tranquillity.

Additionally, we have welcomed back volunteers from 'Dover Port', who helped us create a brand-new 'slide mound', which has quickly become a favourite space to play.

We're incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported us in securing grants or providing volunteer assistance. These make a huge difference to our school community!



Staff Update

Miss Atkins has taken on a new role as our Welfare Assistant, joining our Pastoral Team. She will be working alongside Mrs Clarke to provide extended support for our children and their families. She will be leading pastoral linked interventions directly with children, as well as supporting our families to access external agencies.

Understanding Behaviour in Our School

You may have heard from your children that we have made some slight changes to some of the systems linked to behaviour in our school. While it's likely you've only heard about a small part of this – the introduction of yellow and red cards – there is actually so much more depth involved!

As you know, we have always had a behaviour policy in place, but we felt it was time to strengthen both staff and children's understanding of our shared expectations. Our staff team have been working to develop a comprehensive behaviour curriculum that we believe will make a real difference! The key principle behind this document is the understanding that behaviour is taught, not caught. In other words, we want to ensure that children are explicitly taught how to behave and engage with school expectations.

Through modelling, overlearning, and using shared language, we aim to equip our children with the tools they need to succeed. While our behaviour policy clearly outlines how behaviour is managed, our new curriculum focuses on how behaviour is taught. We are excited about these changes and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will have on our school community. Encouraging a supportive and understanding atmosphere will ultimately help our children grow into respectful and responsible individuals.

Below is a quick glance document showing elements that underpin how we remain committed to creating a positive culture at River - Positive rewards, recognition and shared routines and language and a continued focus on restorative conversations. All of which reinforces our school's key principles and rules: **"Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe."** We believe that recognising positive behaviour is just as important as addressing any challenges, and this document will provide you with insights into how we celebrate and encourage our children to embody our THRIVE Values.

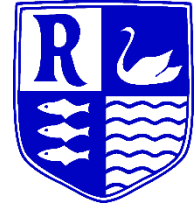
Throughout the week, children are positively recognised and gain 'positive points'. This success is celebrated in their weekly reward time. The yellow and red cards that you will have heard about are linked to this. The yellow card serves as a visual reminder and is given discreetly by a member of staff, accompanied by an instant restorative conversation down at the child's level. All of our children are given the tools to 'put it right'. If they take the opportunity to turn it around and show expected behaviours, the warning card will be taken away. It's all part of helping them make better choices and understand the impact of their actions. It's important to note that a yellow card is not given instantly. Prior to this, children will have been given verbal reminders about the expectations and how they can improve their choices. It is only when children have not made these changes, that the yellow card is issued as the next step.

We encourage you to take some time to explore the full documents available on our website

<https://www.river.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Behaviour&pid=316&action=saved>

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the developments further, we have some drop-in sessions available to you. These sessions will be held on **Tuesday 16th September at 8:45-9:15am** and **Thursday 18th at 2:45-3:15pm**. Members of the Leadership Team will be on hand to answer any questions you may have or if you simply want a general discussion about behaviour in our school.

Behaviour at River - Be Your Best You



Routines, Phrases and Gestures

- Well considered seating plans
- 3, 2, 1 to support transitions
- Resources well organised on tables
- Praise in Public
- A, B, C hand gestures – No Hands Up.
- My Turn, Our Turn, Your Turn
- Emotional regulation check ins
- **Lovely Listening – STAR**
- Terrific Transitions

Visible Consistencies for All

- Daily meet, greet and smile
- **Wonderful Walking**
- **STEP** to politeness (Smile, Thank You, Excuse Me, Please)
- Holding Doors Open
- Daily reinforcement of our values
- Clear expectations
- Expected behaviours praised first

Positive Recognition

- Displays and recognition boards
- Golden Book
- Positive Points
- Stickers
- Proud Post
- Home contact (calls/emails)
- SLT praise
- THRIVE award
- Verbal recognition
- Weekly 'Me Time'

Restorative Questions

- What happened?
- What were you feeling at the time? What have you felt since?
- How did this make others feel?
- Who has been affected?
- What should we do to put things right?
- How can we do things differently next time?

Our Key Principles

- Be Ready
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe

Micro Scripts for Adults

- I've noticed that you... (seem hot/are stamping your feet)
- I imagine that you are feeling...
- I wonder if...
- Do you remember the ...(positive behaviour) I saw? That's the behaviour I want to see now.



Kind regards,

Mrs Victoria Alliston



Diary Dates

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

Weds 10th September 2025	All Year R children in for lunch. <i>8.45am – 12.15pm</i>
Thurs 11th September 2025	Year 6 Kent Test All Year R children in Full Time. <i>8.45am – 3.15pm</i>
Mon 15th September 2025	Pickleball Taster Sessions in School
Tues 16th September 2025	Year 4 Local Walk
Weds 17th September 2025	Pickleball Taster Sessions in School
Thurs 18th September 2025	Year R Police Visit in School Year 3 Stone Age Day
Mon 29th September 2025	Year 2 Castles Trip
Tues 30th September 2025	Individual School Photos
Mon 20th – Fri 24th October 2025	Half Term

Our website calendar is always up to date with what is going on in school.

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