



SCHOOL *NEWS*

June 2024

Message from Senior Leadership Team

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many Riverwalk students enjoyed President's Sports Day on Wednesday, 13th June.

We are following this event with our own sports days, opening our doors to parents and carers to join the fun!

Please note the following points before you visit:

- The use of mobile phones to take pictures is not permitted.
- Class staff will take pictures and send them home at end of the day/week.
- Parents/carers take full responsibility if they bring student's siblings- please sign consent form on our Inventory sign-in system.
- Parents/carers can take the students home after the activity.

The focus of this month's issue is 'Communication'.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind Regards

Lukasz Rumanowski
Academy Head



Important dates for your diary:

- Just Chat: 19th June - 10.00am -11.30am
- Parental Engagement: 20th June - 1.30pm -2.30pm
- Upper School Sports Day: 26th June
- Lower School Sports Day: 28th June
- Riverfest 5th July
12.30pm - 3.30pm. Programme to follow!
- Prom- 12th July





Just Chat

NEWS

June 2024

The next Just Chat meeting is on the 19th June at 10am to 11.30am. We have Geri Stogdon our Behaviour Support Coordinator talking about Trauma Informed and offering advice on behaviour strategies.



Family Support **NEWS**

June 2024



SEND SESSIONS AT
WORLD OF PLAY
IXWORTH HIGH ST, BSE

A quieter session for children aged 0-11 with SEND & their families/carers run by an experienced SEND practitioner

£12
Per Child

**ADULTS
FREE &
SIBLINGS
WELCOME**

**SECOND THURSDAY
(4-6) &
LAST WEEKEND
(10-12)
OF EACH MONTH**

- Messy Play Room
- Sensory Room
- Role-play Area
- Baby Room
- Outdoor Area

www.worldofplay.co.uk/book

<https://www.worldofplay.co.uk/>



<https://www.suffolklocaloffer.org.uk/>

Family Fund

Helping disabled children

<https://www.familyfund.org.uk/>

Family Support Team

Riverwalk Family Support Team,
Jane Tarbuk & Lucy Buckle are available
to offer support, advice and guidance.

Please do contact us on
familysupport@riverwalk.suffolk.sch.uk
or 01284 764280



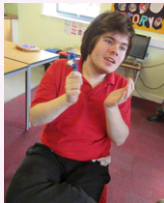
Music Dave



NEWS

June 2024

We are starting to tie work done with Phonics to our music sessions, encouraging pupils to recognise familiar instrumental sounds when they are hidden from view. It is a complex skill for both the listening pupil and for their classmates, who have to be very quiet! Pupils are responding with engagement and we will refine our skills as we become accustomed to the process. Our pupils are also engaging with focus and co-operation when making sounds together; particularly when sharing one instrument. And signing choir is great!



Signing Choir: Monday 1315
in the sports hall.



Bears



NEWS

June 2024

In Bears class we are always practicing our communication.

Some of the ways we like to communicate are by...

choosing our snacks,
choosing different toys we like to play with,
choosing activities in the hall, soft play, magic carpet and our classroom.

Some children use talkpads and core vocab boards. We use pictures to help us choose, as well as Makaton signs. We use our voices to say words and make vocalisations and our facial expressions to show people how we are feeling.

Well done Bears you are all working so hard.





Bumblebee NEWS

June 2024

The Bumblebees know that having a MSI (Multi-Sensory Impairment) can make it pretty hard to communicate. It's lucky then that we're getting good at using Makaton and On-Body signing, photos, symbols, vocalisations, gestures, Objects of Reference and Eye-Gaze technology to help us predict what will happen, comment and request.

Jenny, the Specialist Teacher for Visually Impaired Children (Sensory and Physical Needs) visits schools and homes regularly to help us get the best from our vision (including the use of eye-gaze technology for some). She works closely with Louise, Riverwalk's Sensory & Physical Coordinator. Jenny shares Sensory Stories with groups of visually impaired children throughout Riverwalk so that we can show off how well we can use our vision and other senses!

Sensory Stories are a great way to develop our communication skills and other senses in order to learn about our world. They are great fun. We repeat Jenny's stories and make up our own from our favourite children's books.



Happy Retirement Jenny who has worked with us for many years in this role after being a teacher at Riverwalk.



Tracey, who also takes part in the story sharing, will be taking over Jenny's role.

Reminders

- Sports Day: Fri 28th June 11.15 - 12.15
- Riverfest 12.30 - 3.30 (programme to follow!)
- Please practise communication skills from Personal Plan



Butterflies NEWS

June 2024

Butterflies are always working on developing our communication skills.

We are very good at following our visual timetable, if the teacher forgets to move the pictures on the Now and Next board, their is always a Butterfly that realises and moves it on for her.

The children love using visuals to help them explore the PECS boxes and treasure chests, to make choices and comments.

Some Butterflies like to use letters to spell out words that they are thinking about.

We also like to look at pictures to help us understand instructions. Music helps us, too.

We know what to do when we hear our transition songs.

Have a lovely weekend!

P.S. Our School Sports' Day starts at 10:15 am on Friday 28th June. If you are able to come along and join in the fun, that would make our day!





College **Post 16** *NEWS*

June 2024

This month in college we have been focusing on our communication skills. Students have been using their communication aids throughout the day including at cafe, moving between activities and during morning songs and signing.



Reminders from the team

Continue to send in daily snack and check reminders for shopping in home school books.



Elephants



NEWS

June 2024

It is lovely to hear Elephants voices! We have enjoyed visiting the library and sharing a book with familiar adults and their peers. They chose their favorite book, looked at the pictures and pointed at the objects that interested them by saying aloud what they could see. Some used their communication boards to communicate whether they liked the selected books whereas others expressed their preferences with smiles and giggles! Well done Elephants.



A friendly reminder about our Greene Road Sports Day, 13:30pm on Friday 28th June. Hope to see you all there!





Emus



NEWS

June 2024

In Emus class we are always working on our communication. We communicate in a number of different ways, we use: Talkpads, pictures, symbols, makaton signing and switches. We also use our voices to sing or say words and make vocalisations! All communication is encouraged!



Reminders from the team
Sports Day reminder - Wednesday 26th
June, 11:15- 12:15



Giraffes



NEWS

June 2024

Giraffes class have started well the last half term of the academic year. We have been enjoying our walks to the Nowton Park on Tuesdays and our Rebound Therapy sessions have been very exciting and fun.

In Giraffes class we are all total communicators, we use body language, eye contact, Makaton, symbols, Talk Pads and many other aids to communicate. Some of us are also able to use own words and have a good chat with peers and adults across the school. We are great at requesting and making choices during snack time.



Reminders from the team:

Sports Day reminder: Wednesday the
26th June, 11:15 - 12:15.



Grasshoppers NEWS

June 2024

Grasshopper class have been a busy bunch this month. We have been working hard on our "People Who Help Us" topic, making police cars and fire engines as well as lots of roleplay and dressing up. We have also started having PE on the field and have enjoyed the (mostly) nice weather. Grasshoppers class are constantly working on a range of communication skills as we play and work, using our voices, symbols and signs. We have been learning to build sentences using colourful semantics symbols as well as making simple choices using core vocabulary boards. We are also very lucky to work closely with the SALT and have lots of fun communicating in these sessions using resources from TOBIs to talkpads.



Reminders from the team
Sports Day reminder: Friday the 28th
June, 10.00 - 11.00am.



Kangaroos NEWS

June 2024

It has been another busy month in Kangaroo Class. We really enjoyed welcoming some of our parents for a spring craft afternoon. We also had a very special visitor last week when Shona came in with baby Finn. It was lovely to see them both and Finn was very good and didn't cry once!

Kangaroos are always working hard on their communication skills. We enjoy our weekly trip to the communication cafe and are good at using symbols or words to ask for what we want not forgetting our pleases and thank You's. We often play listening games and particularly like sound bingo. In cooking we are getting good at following a recipe and some of us can say what the next step is. In our project work of "Helping" we have spoken about communication and how a post person delivers letters and parcels. We wrote letters to our friends in other classes and delivered them. We have also thought about what to do in an emergency and who to tell. The kangaroos enjoyed dressing up as the Police and poor Christa got arrested!

Please can you remember to send a hat and sun cream in when the sun does reappear! We look forward to welcoming you to the Sports Morning on Friday 28th June





Koalas



NEWS

June 2024

In Koalas we use a variety of communication as part of our regular routine. As part of circle time we ask the students the weather and how they are feeling, we always enjoy this part of circle time as it gives the students a chance to think with independence. During circle time we also go through a visual timetable of each session of the day so the students have an opportunity to process the lessons of the day as well as, at the end of a session we take off the PEC and put it in a finished slot so the students can acknowledge what will be happening next.

Finally in Koalas we have a range of choosing boards that the students have access to at any point during the day, so they can request items or soothers to further progress communication as well as independence and social engagement.



Reminder from the team:

With sports day coming up, just a gentle reminder that on the day members of staff will be taking photos on your behalf so please keep your phones away whilst on school grounds. Thankyou.



Ladybirds NEWS

June 2024

Ladybirds class have been doing really well with their communication. They have been using their communication aids throughout the day to make requests and choices. They have been choosing shapes and colours in cooking and art . We have also enjoyed going to Communication Cafe to choose our favourite treats!



Spare clothes would be really useful, we intend on doing some outside water play when the weather improves!

Sports Day Reminder Friday 28th June 10.15-11.15
Thanks from the Ladybirds Team



Leopards NEWS

June 2024

Leopards class communicate in a range of different ways throughout the week to ask for items that they want, to make choices and to express their likes and dislikes. Some of our children join 'talk Pad' group where they play a range of games using their talkpads. On a Friday we all go to communication cafe where the children use different communication aids to ask for their snacks. Throughout lessons we use communication boards, colourful semnatics strips, vocabulary sheets, symbols, signing and verbal language to communicate with each other and with adults. Here are a few pictures of how we have been communicating.





Lions



NEWS

June 2024

We love intensive interaction in Lions class. We get rewarded with lots of smiles, giggles and sometimes the odd word... "more". The children are also very good at letting us know when it's not the right time to work together, clearly communicating their wishes. All our little lions know where the snack cupboard is and its brilliant to see some children now taking more notice of the photos on the cupboard door, looking, touching or taking them. Great requesting!

A friendly reminder about our Greene Road Sports Day, 1:30pm on Friday the 28th June. Hope to see you there !



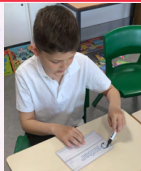


Meerkats



NEWS

JUNE 2024



Meerkats are still adapting to the new timetable and school routine. In Meerkats, children use their talk pads, communication boards and core word boards to communicate and learn.

Children enjoyed the rebound therapy sessions and to learn new movements on the trampoline. We continue to enjoy our topic this term People who help, we have been learning about police people, firefighters, vets, dentists, doctors and teachers.



Reminders:

Please remember our sports day will be on the
26/06/24 - 11:15 - 12:15.

Remember, parents are not allowed to take any pictures on the day, instead we will take photos and share them with you on the next newsletter.



Octopus NEWS

June 2024

Octopus Class have had a busy start to the half term. This is because we have started going swimming again- great fun was had by all. The children have also enjoyed another visit from Choccy the Therapy dog, and getting stuck back into our work on the Stone Age, plants and animals, and 3D shapes.

Octopus Class pupils are generally very chatty! We communicate through speaking to our teachers and friends. There are visual aids all around the classroom to help children to choose the activities they would like to do. We are working hard on speaking and writing in sentences. Well done all
:)



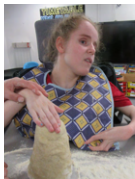
Reminder of swimming every
Thursday please



Orcas **NEWS**

June 2024

Orcas have started the term well, we have been finishing off our work on volcanoes and prehistoric worlds with making volcanoes, painting and decorating them ready to explode them with bicarbonate of soda and vinegar. We are starting the new topic this term of People Who Care For Us. In story time we have been looking at The Gingerbread Man together, using this topic for some of our artwork and students have made their own gingerbread men to ice and eat! We have also continued to engage well with our group phonics sounds and getting some time outside in the breezy June afternoons! We are looking forward to celebrating Sports Day on the 26th June.



Please remember to send back your slips for Sports Day on the 26th June but remember parents are not allowed to take any pictures on the day, instead we will take photos and share them with you next newsletter.





Owls



NEWS

June 2024

In Owls class we enjoy daily communication sessions. We have our own individual communication boxes where we work on our communication targets.

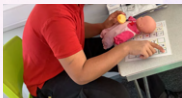
Some of us have been working on answering who, what, where questions using our voices. Some are learning to use PEC's on a sentence strip. Communicating with place/person and action words. We can sign these too!

Others are working on communicating with core vocab charts.

We all work very hard and do so well in our communication sessions.

We have even helped during communication cafe, communicating with our peers and handing out snacks.

Sports day 26th June 11:15am - 12:15pm please return slips if you would like to attend.
Prom 12th July - Please return slips to buy tickets





Pandas NEWS

June 2024

Everyday in panda's class we do some form of communication. Whether it's talking about our weekend in our weekend news lesson. We use the communication board at communcafe cafe asking for different snacks on a Friday. We have started phonics in our class, taking turns with our friends on the whiteboard and vocalising the sounds of the animals. We communicate to each other, when we play with our friends.



Reminders from the team

Remember to not use your phone at sports day, the TAs will be taking photographs.



Rabbits NEWS

June 2024

The children in Rabbits class use vocalizations, TOBIES, core vocab charts, PECS books, Makaton signing and Symbols to communicate.

We focus on communication throughout the day and take every opportunity to enhance their skills. Some children are beginning to use sounds, make different sounds to express a feeling or to get attention. They are able to listen and respond when spoken to, react to sudden noises and sounds and notice toys/instruments that make a sound.





Sharks NEWS

June 2024

In Sharks class we have daily opportunities to promote communication.

We have our own individual communication targets where we are encouraged to develop our speech, expand our vocabulary and find reasoning for why events occur.

Some of us have been working on answering who, what, where questions using our voices and we are and others are building complex sentences with support.

We all work very hard and do so well in our communication sessions.

We have even helped during communication cafe, communicating with our peers and handing out snacks. On another note, Swimming has started after half term and we are developing our confidence and Swimming skills with minimal effort.

Sharks are showing great independence when out in the community.

President Sports Day was a hit, children were engaged, active and shared activities with peers in a very different and busy environment. Well done Sharks



Reminders from the team

Please keep on sending snack and drink to school daily
If you haven't yet, please send sun cream and a hat too.



Tigers NEWS

June 2024

Tigers have made a great start to the new half term and have been really busy creating wonderful things in cooking and art. The most popular cooking session so far this term was making fruit kebabs. The children used all their senses to explore the different types of fruit and then used communication visual supports, such as core vocabulary boards, photographs, symbols and sentence strips to clearly request what they wanted to put onto their kebab sticks. Great fine motor skills were developed too during this session, using pincer grips to carefully pick up even tiny blueberries and thread them onto their kebabs - yum!!!

In art, the children loved decorating their mermaid and mermen pictures. Megan, one of our fabulous Tiger TA's hand drew individual mermaids and mermen for each child, and then they used communication visual supports to select what materials they wanted to decorate their tails. We were really impressed that the children made learning links from their maths lessons, where we have been learning about 2D shapes. They remembered the names of some common shapes when asking for items to decorate their tails - for example, one child said "I want a big, red triangle" - well done Tigers!!!!



Just a reminder that swimming has finished for this term and so children no longer need a swimming costume or towel on a Thursday. We are enjoying outdoor PE during this session now - climbing along the trim trail circuit, using the outside gym and exploring the sensory garden.



Wolves



NEWS

June 2024

Our students use lots of different ways to communicate. We can understand Makaton signing and some of our students can also use these signs as part of their expressive communication. Each morning, we practise signing the timetable for the day and have a sing and sign session later in the day in which some students are able to copy some of the more familiar signs. Students also have access to symbols, their individual PECs books, core word and phrase charts, and some students have Talk pads. Some of our students are able to make vocal sounds which we encourage in whichever capacity they are able to use their voice to communicate. This may involve repeating words or trying to form the correct shape with their mouths to make the different sounds.



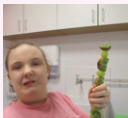
Our Sports Day is
Wednesday 26 June
11.15am - 12.15pm



ZEBRAS NEWS

June 2024

Communication is a focus in almost every session in Zebras. We use it to greet each other in the mornings using familiar songs, we use signing to join in our singing sessions and we all use choice boards to make selections in art, cooking or phonics. Some Zebras have a Talkpad which is really helping with their talking and some are doing really well at verbalising their thoughts and feelings. This term we are using cooking lessons to develop independent life skills such as chopping, mashing and peeling. We are making different fruit kebabs so we get to try new flavours every week, learn their names and we even snuck in a little bit of maths by following patterns of alternating fruit.



Our Sports Day is on Wednesday 26 June
10.15am - 11.15pm. Parents are welcome
to take their children home afterwards