



# SCHOOL *NEWS*

May 2024

## Message from Senior Leadership Team

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been working to create a broad and ambitious curriculum that nurtures progress and supports our students to be the best versions of themselves. The process has been guided by feedback from experienced school leaders, who have been supporting us on our journey. I am thankful to those parents who supported us so far and intend to share more benefits that stem from a bespoke, robust and balanced educational programme. I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter focus: **outdoor learning**.

Kind Regards  
Lukasz Rumanowski  
Academy Head



## Riverwalk Curriculum Pathways:



**Explorers  
Pathway  
(Pre-formal  
approach)**



**Discoverers  
Pathway  
(Informal  
approach)**



**Adventurers  
Pathway  
(Semi-formal/  
formal approach)**



### Important dates for your diary

Thursday, 16th May- Parents' Consultation  
(15:30-17:30)

Half-Term: Monday 27th- Friday 31st May

Riverfest: 5th July



# Just Chat

# NEWS

*May 2024*



**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 10 – 11.30.** Our guests for this gathering are Louise McKenzie (Physical and Sensory Co-ordinator) and Lucy Martinez (Occupational Therapist and Advanced Sensory Integration Practitioner) Lucy does not work for the NHS in Suffolk but visits the school each week to provide specialist support. Please let us know if you have any specific questions.



**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024 10 – 11.30.** Our guest for this Just Chat gathering is Gemma Chaplin from the National Autistic Society. She is the Continuous Improvement Lead working with the Autism Specialist Team (Quality and Assurance) and Deputy Area Manager for the South (East Anglia, Hertfordshire, and Kent). Gemma has worked in the Learning Disability and Health and Social world since she was 17 starting her career at Riverwalk School going on to work for Mencap as a Registered CQC Manager and now the National Autistic Society. She is happy to talk about transitions, support and access in the community and networking generally. If you have any specific questions you would like to ask, please let us know in advance.

We look forward to meeting you again. Everyone welcome.

Steph, Jane, and Lucy your Just Chat Team



# Family Support **NEWS**

May 2024

**CHARITY BALL**

RAVENWOOD HALL FOR  
**RIVERWALK SCHOOL**  
Friday 19th July 2024

ARRIVAL 6:30 PM	SET DOWN 7:00 PM	CARRIAGES Midnight
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EVENING ENTERTAINMENT  
DISCO | AUCTION | RAFFLE | HEADS & TAILS  
£25.00 PER PERSON  
INCLUDES TWO COURSE MEAL & 1/2 BOTTLE OF WINE

RAVENWOOD HALL,  
ROUGHAM | BURY ST EDMUNDS | IP30 9JA

FOR TICKETS | ☎ 01599 276545 | SCAN ME

**Suffolk Parent Carer Forum**  
**OPEN EVENT**

Meet professionals in SEND & Mental Health from  
Suffolk County Council, Health Services, Voluntary  
Sector and more

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June**  
**10:30 – 1:30**  
United Reformed Church  
 Ipswich St, Stowmarket  
 IP14 1AD

Information Booth | Presentations | Refreshments Provided

Free Attendees draw to win an Amazon Voucher

Working towards a brighter future for  
Suffolk's children and young people

• Suffolk Parent Carer Forum, Ipswich Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 1AD  
☎ 01473 765001 | ✉ info@spcf.org.uk | www.spcf.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

*May 2024*

We've been fabulous musicians again this month! The signing choir goes from strength to strength - a current favourite is 'I am the Music Man' with added percussion (played very enthusiastically!) and we have pupils of all ages taking part and having fun. Octopus class is working on a performance of their chosen dinosaur song, with many different parts and sounds played superbly by the pupils. Sharks have developed their listening skills really well and are learning about the conventions of pop songs. Also, Meerkats and Kangaroos have blown my mind with their rhythmic awareness! And all the classes continue to have fun and engage brilliantly. We're also in the swing of the musical content of our regular assemblies.



Reminders from the team  
Signing choir in the hall every Monday from  
1.15 to 1.45pm.



# Bears



# NEWS

*May 2024*

Bears class have enjoyed exploring the outside areas of the school during the sunny days.

They also especially enjoyed their first trip this year to Nowton Park.

Everybody had fun exploring the park, swings and roundabout. We enjoyed listening to the birds and the wind in the trees and liked looking at the animals, plants and leaves, both on our walk and at Nowton Park.

Well done Bears looking forward to our next visit very soon.





# Bumblebee NEWS

May 2024



Some of the things we have learnt about the Outdoors:

It can wake us up & calm us down

It feels good to sprinkle & squeeze soil

Birds make some great sounds

Worms wriggle

Some insects can fly. Insects stop flying if you squeeze them by accident

Some plants smell great & are safe to eat

Water play is great fun





# Butterflies NEWS

*May 2024*

Butterflies have been out and about. Spring has sprung, so we had a colour hunt and made Spring Pictures.

Butterflies have enjoyed playing outside on the Trim Trail and Outdoor Gym.

Being brave enough to try new things in a new place, can be super challenging and a big hurdle for some of our children. Watching them taking that next step makes it all worth while.

Whatever the weather, have a lovely weekend.





# College **Post 16** *NEWS*

*May 2024*

This month in college we have been focusing on lots of outdoor learning. Enjoying the sunshine while taking trips over to the play area and exploring different equipment. Students have been turn taking during group activities such as parachute and ball games. Students have been working on their sensory circuits outside.



### Reminders from the team

Continue to check home school books for reminders for shopping and send relevant list and money.  
Send in daily snack for your child.





# Elephants NEWS

*May 2024*

Now that the fine weather is finally upon us Elephants class have joined Lions to share the toys and activities outside. Cars and scooters remain a real favourite with children whizzing up and down the paths and ramps! The spinning cups and slides are in constant use; and on the veranda a sensory circuit attracts all the climbers and movers! We have recently added a few adult - led activities such as bubble blowing, shaker making and water play which are very popular by all the children! Well done Elephants!





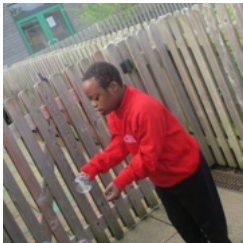
# Emus



# NEWS

*May 2024*

With the arrival of the warmer weather, comes more outdoor learning. Emus have been enjoying the swings, bikes, and even problem solving with the water play pipes trying to get the water to flow to the bottom! We've also taken some of our lessons outside and very much enjoyed the bubbles outside as part of our phonics. Emus would like the warm, dry eather to stay so we can use our outside space even more over the coming weeks.



Reminders from the team

Please send your child in with a hat, sunscreen and a drink to hydrate them . Thank you.



# Giraffes

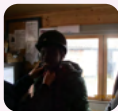


# NEWS

*May 2024*

Giraffes class have been very busy this halfterm. We have all enjoyed playing outside and exploring some of the equipment in the playground.

Our fabulous horse riding sessions have come to an end. We were all very brave, stroking and riding a horse. The bus ride was also a hit and we all had a good laugh and an amazing time at Barrow Stables.



#### Reminders from the team:

With the warm weather here, it would be great if we could have a set of spare clothes sent in for our water play.

Thank you



# Grasshoppers NEWS

*May 2024*

Grasshopper class have enjoyed the beginning of the summer term and, as the sun has begun to show its face, we have had lots of opportunities to engage with our learning whilst outdoors.

Grasshoppers love to be outside whatever the weather and the children always love playing on the various apparatus outside on the field, Climbing over the adventure trail and getting some exercise on the accessible gym equipment. Our Year 6 students have also grown in confidence whilst on our horse riding trips and have graduated from the stable training grounds to going on rides through the countryside.



Reminders from the team  
During the hot weather Grasshopper class enjoy engaging with wet play. Some spare clothes could be useful for when we get very wet. Thanks



# Kangaroos NEWS

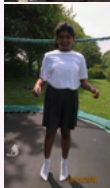
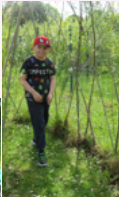
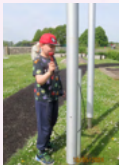
*May 2024*

As the sun came out so did Kangaroos.

We have had a great time getting outside and exploring the sensory garden and getting fit on the outside gym.

We have bounced, swung, ran, balanced, and used all our senses to explore the grounds, we even took a moment to lie down to cloud gaze and made out patterns in the fluffy clouds that we could see, some of us had wonderful imaginations.

To continue our outside learning next term we are planning on planting and learning about how things grow. We will also be doing some scavenger hunts to team building games showing how well we can work together and listen to our friends.



For those of you that were able to join us for our Spring Craft Activity Afternoon, thank you for coming and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Reminder as the weather continues to heat up that sun cream and sun hats are needed to keep safe and protected from the sun.



# Koalas



# NEWS

*May 2024*

Koalas have been keen to learn about people who help us over the last few weeks with some fun new singing and signing songs as well as role play and dressing up. Koalas students have also been exploring gardening with different types of herbs and seeds and enjoyed the recent sun with some water play - turn taking with the hose to fill up the paddling pool. We also had another visit with Choccy the dog and all students engaged well and had fun!!



**Reminders from the team:**  
As it's getting warm could all parents ensure their children are sent in with sunscreen and spare clothes for outdoor wet play activities.



# Ladybirds NEWS

*May 2024*

Ladybirds had great fun doing bubble art outside. Everyone did great colour choosing and liked watching the bubbles pop. We mixed the coloured bubbles on the tray to make patterns and then printed onto paper. We sang our song 'bubbles in the bath' whilst washing the dolls. We had lots of fun!



Hopefully with the warmer weather we will be doing more water play activities outside. It would be great to have a spare set of clothes sent in for this. Thanks from the Ladybirds Team



# Leopards NEWS

*May 2024*

This half term Leopards class have been really enjoying our Thursday Morning trips out to Nowton Park. Leopard walk up to the park as a whole class, listening really well to adults instructions. Once at the

park we go to the cafe and choose a snack.

Leopards

have been doing a fantastic job handing over their money and accepting their change from the shop assistant. After we have paid for our snack the children sit outside in the cafe area and enjoy what they have purchased. We then get a chance to play in the lovely play park next door. Here are some photos

showing the wonderful time we have!



We will be continuing our trips to Nowton Park every Thursday morning. If you would like your child to buy a snack from the cafe please send them in with some money in a named purse or wallet. Thank you.





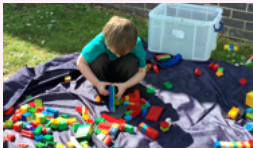
# Lions



# NEWS

*May 2024*

Lions class have been making the most of the sunshine and enjoying lots of outdoor learning. Mud kitchen was really popular filling and emptying pots and getting muddy! Some of us could blow bubbles and lots of us loved chasing them. Threading Cherrios onto pipe cleaners to make caterpillars was very tricky, but we didn't give up, well done little Lions!



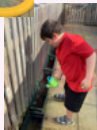


# Meerkats



# NEWS

MAY 2024



## Outdoor learning

Meerkats have been enjoying the warmer weather and doing lots of outdoor learning. The children are more confident during the walks to Nowton Park and can understand the routine.

We learnt about safe crossing places and that pedestrians walk on the pavement in our Road safety lesson.

Children Enjoyed exploring the outdoor gym equipment. Children engage well in the gardening lesson and are very proud to see some of the vegetables growing in our garden.

We have also been doing our sensory circuit outside in the morning if the weather permits.

Well done Meerkats.

Reminders from the team:

Could you please send suncream and a hat for your child to use during playtimes.



# Octopus NEWS

*May 2024*

We have had a busy and fun month. Octopus class have enjoyed learning more about dinosaurs, including making a display of the layers of the Earth where fossils have been found, collaging dinosaurs and writing captions to describe pictures of dinosaurs. We have had a visit from Choccy the dog and have done lots of playing outside with our friends. We have planted some sunflower seeds and had phonics outside. We will be doing more outdoor learning as Spring progresses.



Please send in named suncream and hat for your child so we can have lots of fun outside. If we don't have toothpaste/toothbrush for your child please send that in too.  
Thank you.



# Orcas



# NEWS

*May 2024*

What a fantastic start to what we hope is a long and sunny summer! Orcas class have been slathering on the suncream and taking to the lush green fields and adventurous activities of the Riverwalk playground this May. Some of our students collected herbs from the Riverwalk sensory garden for us to bring inside and investigate further, making the whole classroom smell amazing!

In our topic lessons we are continuing to explore Prehistoric Worlds and have all got stuck in with a monster mash mountain including Quorn dinosaurs, broccoli trees, mountains of mashed potato volcanoes, and rivers of gravy lava! The students had so much fun exploring this sensory activity that we showed off our photos do all our friends in assembly.

We have been cooling down during our trips to the swimming baths. Long may the sun shine and wishing you all a happy half term!



Remember to keep topping up your young person's pads, snacks and milk if you usually provide them. Feel free to send in sunglasses or a sunhat if the term gets particularly hot!





# Owls



# NEWS

*May 2024*

Owls class have begun working on sensory story massage.

We have progressed quickly with this.

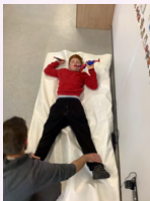
We have been working on accepting physical touch, accepting permission for appropriate touch and tolerating positive touch.

We have also been working on receiving up to 10 different massage strokes during our massages. We find this very relaxing and we have started to work on performing moves on our friends.

We have also begun some gardening. We have made choices between fruit, vegetables and flower seeds. We have planted some aubergines, broccoli and carrots. Some of them have begun to sprout.

We have enjoyed touching and feeling the seeds in our hands. Touching and smelling the soil. Planting our seeds in our growing containers. We also water these regularly.

With the weather beginning to brighten up please can we ask parents and carers to send in sunscreen with students names on.





# Pandas NEWS

May 2024

Now the weather is becoming nicer and warmer, we have been bringing some of our lessons to our Panda area. The children have been exploring in mud and making slime. Learning about firefighters and spraying the 'fire'. Bringing some of the toys outside during 'Panda time'. We are looking forward to more sunny days.



Reminders from the team  
Please can we have spare clothes  
and a hat. Thank you Kat



# Rabbits NEWS

*May 2024*

Finally the weather is allowing us to spend more time outside, to explore and play. At outdoor playtimes the children have opportunities to turn take, choose a bike and ride it, explore messy play, have a ride on the see-saw. As the weather improves we will do waterplay sessions outside, which I'm sure will bring a smile to our faces.

Thank you for sending in a labelled suncream for your child.



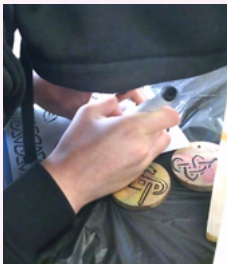


# Raise *Raise* **NEWS**

*May 2024*

Our students had fun celebrating Saint Georges day on 23rd of April. Making helmets, swords and surcoats, wearing them while they handing out English flags they had painted to other classrooms.

Students have finished their Viking sheilds and will be sending home later this week.



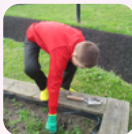




# Sharks NEWS

*May 2024*

Sharks have been working hard on reading and writing small sentences and also did this in the Library. Class has been learning about the life cycle of plants and most children are able to state this with minimal prompt. Sharks have also been exploring gardening by deweeding and preparing the ground for planting later this term. Everyone did a great job and is able to use some gardening tools safely. We also had another visit from Choccy the dog and all students engaged well and had fun!!



### Reminders from the team

If you haven't yet, could you please send labelled sun cream in  
Thank you

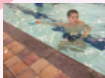


# Tigers NEWS

May 2024

Tigers have had a very busy start to the summer term! We have really been enjoying the beautiful sunshine and have been taking our learning outside whenever possible. In phonics this term we have been exploring the different sounds we hear all around us and the different sounds we can make. We enjoyed a song called 'bubbles in the bath' and loved bathing dolls outside whilst making lots of fabulous body percussion sounds. We also enjoyed our treasure hunt in messy play - hunting through different textures to find the buried treasure.

Our Key Stage 2 tigers have enjoyed going swimming this half term. We have been so proud of the progress they have made in the pool and all are really confident getting into the water and getting their faces wet. They have enjoyed using the large floats and noodles to float around in the water and many have started kicking their legs to self-propel themselves around the pool. Our Key Stage 1 Tigers have been super stars too - enjoying spending time in a different class, exploring all the fun activities and making new friends.



A letter has gone home in book bags this week about Suncream. Please could you sign the permission slip and return it to school along with a named bottle of suncream for your child. If you could pop some cream on before school, that would be really helpful too :)





# Wolves



# NEWS

*May 2024*

Now that the weather is starting to improve, we have more opportunities to engage with outdoor learning opportunities. We have been able to see how different colours reflect off our hands when holding them under transparent coloured plastics. Some have been able to see how much the raspberry canes have grown and how the blackcurrant berries are getting bigger and over time we hope we will see them turning colour – if the birds don't get them first! With the dry weather we have been able to explore how to hold crayons and place paper to get imprints of different outside surfaces.



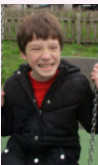
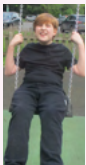
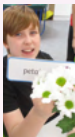
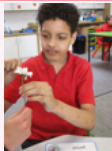
As the weather gets warmer, please remember sunscreen.



# ZEBRAS NEWS

*May 2024*

Zebras have been all about the outdoors so far this term. Our weekly walk to the park has proved to be a big adventure with everyone enjoying different equipment and using their bodies to climb, swing, spin or balance. We've also been learning about plants and growing. We've explored flowers using our senses and some of us have learnt to say the names of different parts of plants. We have investigated different types of seed and made tasty seed crackers by rolling and kneading dough. The good weather has meant we have the water tray in full use most days and the Zebras love to use water to regulate as well as learning through play by pouring, splashing and mixing.



Please send in suncream and a hat if you haven't already done so.