



**Learning through a fun and exciting
curriculum!
A special place to learn and thrive!**



'Reach to Achieve'

Welcome to Rivers Primary Academy

Dear Parents

On behalf of the staff and governors of Rivers Primary Academy, I would like to welcome you to our school.

Last year was an excellent year for Rivers. Ofsted graded us as a 'Good' school with Outstanding for our Safeguarding. Our results were excellent too with Reception and Year 1 phonics well above national figures. We achieved our best ever writing and maths SATs results in Year 6. We are part of Windsor Academy Trust which is a family of 5 schools. We share expertise, resources and support each other so that the children at Rivers get the best possible education and opportunities to be the best they can be.

We have high expectations at Rivers and we expect *everyone* to do their best. Not all children are academics so we aim to encourage an atmosphere of respect and celebration where individuals can work towards their unique potential, recognising that best efforts are both rewarded and rewarding. Our school vision is to secure learning for all in a climate of independence and mutual care. We want Rivers to be a learning organisation, which is vibrant and creative, where people at all levels are motivated and thrilled by all that education has to offer.

The leadership team of our school recognise that it is our staff and their relationships with the children and you, the parents, that makes our school such a special place to learn and thrive.

We look forward to a long and happy relationship with you and your family.

Yours sincerely

Jane King
Head Teacher

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‘Reach to Achieve’



School Ethos

At Rivers Primary we believe that our school should be a warm and welcoming place and that the environment in which the children work should be happy, secure and stimulating.

It is important that all children are valued highly and equally and that there should be equality of opportunity for all. We consider that school should actively promote children’s self-esteem and develop their skills of independence, self-reliance and initiative. Children have the right to develop the full range of their abilities and we recognise the value of extra-curricular activities in a child’s personal development.

We are committed to the belief that school can affect and improve the behaviour and work of children and so improve their chances in life. We seek to actively promote a culture of high expectation in our school.

We consider that education should be a partnership between the child, home and school and the development of high quality home-school links is a key priority.

We are committed to developing links both within the community and within the Trust. We will endeavour to develop strong links with our sister school, Goldsmiths Primary Academy.



School Aims

At Rivers Primary Academy we aim to:

- Create a happy, safe, friendly, caring and welcoming school that provides for the needs of all our pupils and parents.
- Provide a curriculum, which is enjoyable, enriching and matched to the ability of our children enabling them to fulfil their potential. It will also promote the importance of basic skills and life-long learning.
- Foster a school ethos which safeguards the physical, emotional and psychological well-being of all members of our school community.
- Prepare our pupils for their future place in the community as responsible and caring citizens.
- Nurture values that are morally, spiritually and culturally appropriate which empower the pupils to make positive choices in their lives.

Good to be Green

Positive Behaviour Management System



Within society we follow a series of ground rules that allow us to live together in relative harmony.

In classrooms, children are made aware of the ground rules in school as they are on display for all to see.

We call this set of rules 'The Good to Be Green Code'.

The Cards

Every child has 3 cards behind their name which are used alongside positive reinforcement of the 'Good to Be Green Code'.



1) Green Card

The majority of children will have a green card displayed by their name. This is because they have been following the code consistently.



2) Yellow Card

Occasionally children will need a reminder of behaviour expectations in school. If a child needs reminding 3 times of our expectations they will be told to change their card to yellow. If a child demonstrates that they can follow the code they can go back to a green card.



3) Red Card

If a child continues not to follow the code, they will be requested to change their card to red. There will be rare occasions where a child's behaviour will take them straight to red. Once a child receives a red card they will miss 15 minutes playtime, discuss their actions with the Phase Leader who will support the child to find a positive solution and record the incident. Parents will also be informed.

School Staff

Executive Head Teacher:	Mrs J King
Acting Headteacher:	Miss A Goodson
Finance Manager	Miss N Kouser
PA to Head Teacher:	Mrs J Edwards
School Administrator:	Mrs M Cooper
Teaching Staff:	Miss C Bevington-King Mrs H Blewitt Miss J Bodington Miss M Brough Miss F Cann Mrs C Dawes Mrs J Evans Miss C Fletcher Mr A Hickman Miss K Husted Miss A McCormick Miss H Partridge Mrs M Savory Mrs A Standen Mrs N Tomlinson
Family Liaison Officer:	Mrs S Hammonds
Attendance Officer:	Ms L Rochelle
Speech Therapist:	Miss E Merritt
Teaching Assistants:	Mrs J Baker Mrs R Beech Miss S Birch Mrs A Clark Mrs J Dawson Mrs S Hill Mrs D Peach Mrs J Robinson Mrs C Rogan Mrs P Scott
Site Manager	Mr I Johnson

Dinner supervisors:	Mrs W Roberts (Senior Supervisor)
	Mrs K Aston
	Mrs J Barnes
	Mrs R Griffiths
	Mrs S Harper
	Mr D Kenderdine
	Mrs S O'Hara
	Ms L Porter
	Mrs R Reynolds
	Ms L Rochelle
	Mrs J Sherwin

Governing Body

Chair:	Mrs E Hill	
Vice Chair:	Mr M Beech	
	Ms L Rochelle	
	Ms L Porter	
	Mr S Withnall	
	Mrs J King	Executive Head Teacher
Teacher Governor:	Miss A Goodson	Acting Head Teacher
Support Staff Governor:	Miss N Kouser	Finance Manager

The Governing Body at Rivers Primary Academy is made up of Parents, Staff, and Community Governors. They work voluntarily for the good of the school and are responsible for overseeing all day-to-day matters relating to the school. Information about the Governing Body is obtainable directly from the school.

Governors meet at least once every term where they discuss the curriculum the children are being offered and the standards of attainment they reach.

Our School Day



Area	Morning	Afternoon
Nursery	8.45 — 12.00	1.25 — 3.30
Key Stage 1 (infants)	8.45 — 12.30	1.25 — 3.30
Key Stage 2 (juniors)	8.45 — 12.45	1.25 — 3.30

It is important that children arrive on time and that young children are collected on time.

Beginning and End of Day Monday—Thursday

Our school day begins at 8.35 am for all children. However, the door is open from 8.35 a.m., when the children can enter and go straight to class.

If you are going to be late collecting your child, please inform school (01922 710164) and collect them from the office.

At 3.25 pm all Key Stage 1 children, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, will be brought down to the playground by their teachers and teaching assistants. The gates will remain locked until **ALL** classes are down on the playground. This is to keep all our children safe.

At 3.25 pm all Key Stage 2 children, Years 3-6, will be escorted down to the playground by their teachers. The teachers always accompany their children so if you wish to speak to your child's teacher, this is a good time to approach them.

The playground gates are locked at 8.55 am so if you are later than this, you will need to enter via the school Main Reception where you can sign your child in and they can go down to their classes. Parents **must not** enter school after 8.55 am as all exits are locked for security reasons.

Friday

School day ends at 1.30pm

Term dates 2016—2017

Autumn Term 2016

Autumn Term begins

Monday 5 September

Half Term

Monday 24 October – Friday 28 October

Term Ends

Friday 16 December 2016

70 days

Spring Term 2017

Spring Term Begins

Tuesday 3 January

Half Term

Monday 20 February – Friday 24 February

Term Ends

Friday 7 April

64 days

Easter Holiday

Monday 10 April—Friday 21 April 2017

Summer Term 2017

Term Begins

Monday 24 April

Half Term

Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June

Term Ends

Tuesday 25 July

61 days

Total number of days:

195 days

Bank Holiday:

May Day

Monday 1 May 2017



Breakfast Club



At Rivers we offer a completely free Breakfast Club every morning from 7.45 am to 8.40 am. All children are really welcome to attend. There are a variety of breakfasts offered to the children from cereal to porridge; from toast to bagels and sometimes even scrambled eggs! When breakfast is finished, the children choose which activities they would like to complete. There are literacy and numeracy games, computer sessions, Wake up Shake up with the Cyber Coach in the hall or just playing with the toys.



Lunchtime

(School Kitchen Tel. 01922 662936)



A school dinner costs £2.00 per day which is £10 per week. Orders for school meals whether free or paid for, and any dinner money, should be given to the school meals staff in the school canteen each Monday morning. Envelopes are provided for the children's details and dinner money. Please don't hesitate to enquire about claiming free meals. It is simple to do and strictly confidential. The forms are available at reception, who will be happy to help if you need any additional information. If your children are entitled to free school meals, but you don't want them to have a school dinner, please register for them anyway. The school's budget gets extra money for every child on the free school meals list.

ALL children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal.

Packed lunches from home must be brought in a proper lunch box which is clearly marked with the child's name and class. All food must be eaten in the canteen where the children will be supervised by the dinner supervisors. Children may bring drinks in small containers but no glass bottles please.

The school has a Playpod available at dinnertime. It is full of play equipment—clean scrap that can range from tyres to crates, dressing up clothes to netting. The idea is that the children play imaginatively, creatively and co-operatively.



Visitors to school

If parents wish to see teachers please make it before or after school. Teachers cannot see and talk to parents when their priority is to the children.

Parents who wish to see the Head Teacher should ring the office for an appointment as she is often in meetings, with staff or teaching.

All visitors to the school must report to the office and sign in. They will also be expected to wear a badge as a means of identification. Strangers in the school will be challenged by pupils and staff.

All outside doors will be locked during school hours. We ask that all parents are vigilant and keep doors closed at all times. Please do not open doors for others.

Assembly and the Daily Act of Worship

An act of worship is held daily for all pupils, either as a whole school or as a Phase. The majority of the acts of worship are mainly Christian but non denominational, in accordance with the law. The act of worship generally takes place within the context on an assembly in which a theme is explored. These themes are planned throughout the year and are delivered by the Headteacher and all members of staff.

MONDAY - WHOLE SCHOOL

'Stars of the Week'

(led by Head Teacher) 9.00 am

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY—CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Headteacher-Staff



**Parents are welcome to attend
assemblies on Mondays**

Uniform

Uniform at Rivers Primary Academy is compulsory as we feel it has the following advantages for the school, the children and Parents:

- It helps to promote a sense of belonging to the school.
- It provides maximum safety and protection for work and recreation.
- It reduces opportunities for children to be competitive about what they wear to school.
- It is inexpensive and readily available.
- It encourages a working atmosphere in school.

Uniform can be purchased from the school office or Crested Schoolwear, 7 Victorian Arcade, Walsall WS1 1RE

Girls	Cardigans/Jumpers	Black
	Tie	Black and green striped
	Skirts/Pinafore dresses	Grey or black
	Trousers	Grey or black
	Blouses / Polo-shirts	White
	Summer dresses	Green & white check
	Shoes	Sensible Black Shoes (No trainers please)
Boys	Jumpers	Black
	Tie	Black and green striped
	Trousers	Grey or black
	Shirts / Polo-shirts	White
	Shoes	Sensible Black Shoes (No trainers please)

Items for sale in school:-

Sweatshirts up to age 3-13 years	£10 - £12
over 13 years up to XXL Adult	£13
Cardigans up to age 3-13 years	£10 - £12
over 13 years up to XXL Adult	£13
School Bags	£7
Tie	£3

Please note

For safety reasons girls must wear sensible shoes. No heels please
Grey jumpers and cardigans are **not** part of our school uniform.

Tracksuit bottoms and football shirts are **not** school uniform.

Trainers are **not** part of our school uniform. Please make sure the children have sensible black school shoes.

PE, Games and Swimming Kit

All children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 need a PE kit of their own. PE kit is as follows:

- Plain white T shirt
- Plain black shorts
- Black plimsolls



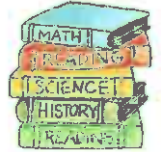
All children will go swimming. Children with long hair must wear a swimming cap. **All jewellery, including ear studs, must be removed for safety reasons.**

Please mark your child's things clearly with their name so that there will be less chance of losing them.

Children will only be excused from PE games and swimming for genuine reasons supported by a note from home. PE kits must remain in a pump bag in school until the end of every half term when they can be taken home for a wash and then returned.



Curriculum and Assessment



The curriculum offered at Rivers is a basic skills curriculum. We have a whole school commitment to the highest quality teaching in all subjects and feel it is vital to have children who become highly literate and numerate.

The curriculum offered at Rivers Academy is a wide-ranging one and aimed at educating the whole child. All children starting school work on a common curriculum that is divided into three stages:

Foundation Stage	3-5 yrs.
Key Stage 1	5-7 yrs.
Key Stage 2	7-11 yrs.

All areas of the National Curriculum are taught. Children are taught in mixed ability classes. Where staffing will allow, children are withdrawn into small groups for additional work and intervention programmes.

There is staff expertise and leadership in all curriculum areas and the 'core subjects' of Numeracy, Literacy and Science occupy a large part of the school week. Numeracy and Literacy is taught every morning and in the afternoons the children follow the International Primary Curriculum for three afternoons which covers the cross-curricular areas of Science, Geography, History, Art, Music and Design and Technology. The children get the opportunity of studying specialised sports and French.

Detailed planning of the curriculum taught is available in school for parents to see if they so wish. A curriculum booklet is sent home to inform parents of the subject areas to be covered in each class.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Pre-School Children

We are grateful for all the help parents give us in preparing their children properly for School. It is most useful if:

- * Children can dress and undress themselves.
- * Tie shoelaces or fasten buckles.
- * Hold a pencil or crayon properly and colour a picture.
- * Distinguish colour.
- * Know the most popular Nursery Rhymes.
- * Can use the toilet and inform their teacher when they need to visit!
- * Listen to a story.



Early Years Foundation Stage

There are seven areas of learning and development that shape the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). All areas of learning are important and inter-connected. Three areas are crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. The three **prime** areas are:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Communication and Language

Physical Development.

The children are also supported in four **specific** areas, through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied. These specific areas are:

English

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design



Each area of learning is implemented through planned, purposeful play and a combination of adult-led and child-initiated activity. Learning is guided by the children's individual needs, interests and stages of development.

We believe that play is essential for children's development; it builds their confidence as they learn to explore. We provide opportunities for child-initiated play in each classroom and outdoors, with a range of natural and man-made resources.

Play enables children to think about problems, take risks and relate to each other. Children learn by leading their own play and by taking part in play which is guided by adults. It is important that children are given the opportunity to investigate and experience, and initiated to "have a go". Through active learning, we encourage the children to concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties. At Rivers, the children have the opportunity to develop their own ideas, make links between ideas and develop strategies for doing things; for example den-making, constructing and role-play. As all aspects of young children's learning are linked, we provide the children with indoor and outdoor learning environments which offer opportunities for holistic development.

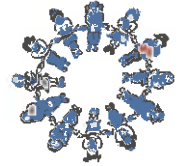
Successful relationships between parents and educators have long-lasting and beneficial effects on children's learning and well-being. We provide opportunities to develop relationships at the beginning of the children's school experience by visiting their pre-school settings, inviting parents into school for workshops, home visits and pre-school sessions. Throughout the year, EYFS parents are invited into school frequently to spend time working alongside their child and sharing activities together. Positive relationships are important.



Blogs



At Rivers, the EYFS team blog the children's learning journey. They record photographs and comment on each child's individual progress. Parents have secure access to their child's blog so they can see exactly what their child has been learning during the day. They can also comment to the teacher or teaching assistant on the content of the posts.



Assessment Arrangements and Reporting to Parents

At the end of each Key Stage, which is in Year 2 and Year 6, each child at Rivers Primary Academy takes part in the Standard Assessment Tests, as required by law. These tasks are designed to confirm the teacher assessments, which take place throughout the child's school career. These begin with a baseline assessment made at Nursery and Reception. This gives us a starting point with the children. All our assessments are made to find out exactly where a child is in his/her learning and to help us plan for the work ahead.

We also offer four parent's evenings a year in which parents get the opportunity to talk to their child's class teacher concerning their child's progress and the targets the teacher has set them. A detailed report of each child's attendance and academic progress is sent out to parents in the Summer Term. We do, however, operate an open door policy at Rivers Academy, so if you have any concerns about your child's progress you may speak to your child's class teacher or the Headteacher at any time.

Working in Partnership

Home School Agreement

You will be asked to sign the Home School Agreement contained in this folder and return it to school. It is an agreement to foster a partnership between pupil/home/school.

Parent helpers in school and parent training

Many parents help us in school in many ways and we are always grateful for their help. We currently have a team of parents that help in the younger children's classes. If you would like to help in school please come in and speak to your child's class teacher or to Miss Goodson. We would love to have more parents to work with our children.

Admission Arrangements for Rivers Primary Academy

The present criteria for admissions in the event of Rivers Primary Academy school being oversubscribed are as follows:

- i) having a brother or sister already in attendance at the school
- ii) relevant medical or social factors, as confirmed by a medical practitioner or social worker which shows that attendance at the school is essential
- iii) proximity of home address to the school as the crow flies;

Please do not hesitate to ask for further clarification on admissions procedures.
We strongly believe that:

**A GOOD SCHOOL IS BUILT ON THE COMMITMENT OF ITS PUPILS,
ITS PARENTS AND ITS STAFF**

It is our aim that between us and with your support we can give your child the best education possible.

Prospective parents are welcome to visit the school by appointment with the Head Teacher.



Admission Arrangements for Rivers Primary Academy



Children may begin school in the nursery when they are three years old. If there are more children than there are places they will be admitted according to age, ie, eldest first. The staff in the nursery, carry out a home visit before the children begin. Infant children begin reception during the school year in which they will be five years old.

If you would like a place at our school you need to obtain a Mid-Year Admission Form from our school office or contact **Kate Mann at Children's Services Education at the EDC, Pelsall Lane, Rushall, Walsall, WS4 1NG. Telephone number: 01922 686470.**

If you are considering Rivers Primary Academy for your child, you will be most welcome to make an appointment for a preliminary visit.

The Early Years Phase Leader will be happy to arrange a visit to the nursery for you and your child. We want to make that important link between home and school as early as possible.

Charging and Remissions Policy

No charge will be made to parents for activities, which form part of the school curriculum. We ask for voluntary contributions towards the costs of school trips and activities, which enhance the curriculum. No child is excluded from activities if their parents are unable to pay. Obviously we have to take into consideration the costs to the school of the activities. If there is not enough income from voluntary contributions, activities may have to be cancelled because the costs cannot be covered.

Absence

It is essential that we know why a child is absent from school otherwise their absence will be recorded as unauthorised. **Please telephone before 9.30 am** on the day of absence and then send a note explaining the absence when your child returns to school. The school monitors absence and contacts parents if we do not know why your child is not in school. **Pupils who fall below 94% will be monitored by the Attendance Officer.**

Attendance

At Rivers we operate a first day calling system, if your child is absent from school without an explanation the Attendance Officer will call your home or make a visit to check on the child's absence. This it is then logged in our Attendance book which is monitored by our Head Teacher and Attendance Officer. Regular non-attendance patterns will be monitored.

Absences are recorded as 'authorised or unauthorised'.

Authorised absences are allowed for the following;

Illness

Medical appointments (these do not require a whole day off)

Religious festivals e.g. Eid

Family circumstances on request (funeral, wedding etc.)

Holidays are **not** allowed during school term times. The government now enforce a fixed term penalty notice of £60 per parent per pupil and if not paid within 21 days this will increase to £120.

No authorised absences will be allowed for Years 2 and 6 during Statutory Assessment Weeks (usually May)

Remember it is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends school. The Government have set a target of 97% - let's see if we can all achieve that this year.

Medical Information

All children are screened by the school nurse or doctor during their first year. A vision and hearing test is also performed during their Reception year and you will be invited in or informed of the results. We recognise there are times when it may be necessary for pupils to take medication during the school day. Should your child need to take medicine during the school hours you must follow this procedure.

1. If your child needs medication during the school day then you must come in and sign a consent form in the office.
2. The medicine must be in a container as prescribed by the doctor or chemist. It must be clearly labelled with the child's name.
3. If there are no written instructions medication cannot be administered.
4. Key stage 2 children with asthma may keep their inhalers in the classroom, with their name clearly marked on them.
5. Key stage 1 children must keep their inhalers in the classroom with their name clearly marked on them.

PLEASE MAKE SURE WE HAVE EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION IN SCHOOL



First Aid

We treat minor cuts, bruises and bumps with cold water. The injury is entered in an accident book. In the case of anything more serious we will contact the child's parent.

We have several members of staff who are qualified in first aid. These staff would treat or assess minor injuries in the first instance.

In the case of a serious injury or illness, we will always contact the parent / carer.

In the case of parents being unable to be contacted, in a real emergency, the school would phone for an ambulance and a member of staff would accompany the child to hospital.

Safeguarding Your Child

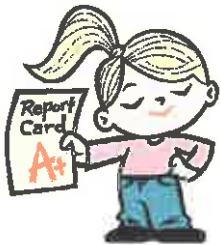
At this school, the health, safety and well-being of every child are our paramount concern. We listen to our pupils and take seriously what they tell us. Our aim is that children will enjoy their time as pupils at this school.

We want to work in partnership with you to help your child to achieve their full potential and make a positive contribution.

On rare occasions our concern about a child may mean that we have to consult other agencies even before we contact you. The procedures which we follow have been laid down by the Walsall Safeguarding Children Board and Rivers Primary Academy has adopted a Child Protection Policy in line with this for the safety of all.

Special Educational Needs

At Rivers Primary we ensure equality of opportunity for all pupils including those who are identified as having Special Educational needs. The school follows the National Code of Practice for SEN pupils. Children will be supported at School Support Level and some children may have their needs assessed as to whether they require an Education, Health and Care Plan. . Once needs are identified the plan of strategies and programmes of work for children to follow are as their Individual Provision Map. Parents are kept fully informed and are consulted throughout the process. A copy of the schools SEN policy is available on request and also on the school web-site.



Parents Evenings, Reports and Interviews



Start of Autumn Term - 'Meet and Greet' your child's new teacher - September/October

5-10 minute appointments to become familiar with your child's new teacher.

End of Autumn Term - 'Target setting'- December

5-10 minute appointments to discuss your child's progress so far and to share targets for reading, writing and maths.

Spring Term - 'Progress' - March

A 5-10 minute appointment to recognise progress and set any new targets as appropriate. Your child is welcome—all work will be available. You can also receive your child's mid point school report.

Summer Term - 'Achievement' - June/July

5-10 minute appointment to discuss achievements of your child, levels they have achieved and targets they need to work on next year. You can also receive your child's school report .

Windsor Academy Trust (WAT)

<http://www.windsoracademytrust.org.uk/>

On 1st November 2013 our school converted to Rivers Primary Academy. Our sponsors are Windsor Academy Trust. Windsor Academy Trust was formed to improve the quality of educational provision through the sharing of ideas and best practice amongst its schools. The Trust is clear that young people achieve their best in a climate of high expectations where teachers are motivated and empowered.

At WAT we combine a shared experience of primary and secondary schools and promote student and staff collaboration. This raises aspirations across a small family of schools united in their ethos and operation to achieve the very best for all their students.

PARENTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT RIVERS

You join our School for seven years and during that time, there will be things you feel unsure of or unhappy about as well as thrilled with! Please bring your concerns to us at an early stage, so that we can help to smooth things out.

If you do have a problem concerning your children, please ring 01922 710164 for an appointment with the class teacher, Deputy Head Teacher or if very serious, the Headteacher. An appointment will be arranged as soon as possible. Your child's work will always be available for inspection.

Occasionally, misconceptions can be made due to a lack of information and we know how this can spread – we really do want an open communication channel so instead of talking about it outside, come and talk about it inside – we want to listen.

Don't wait! If it's important to you, then it's important to us.

Similarly if you are delighted – PLEASE tell us! Thank you.



Rivers Primary Academy
Mersey Road
Blakenall
Walsall
WS3 1NP

Tel: 01922 710164

www.riversprimary.co.uk

Blogs: <http://riversprimaryacademy.net/>