



Riverside Primary School

Newsletter Sept '25

“It’s been wonderful welcoming all our children and families back to school, and a special warm welcome to our new P1 children and families. We’re so proud of how well everyone has settled in over the past few weeks. As always, if you ever have any concerns or suggestions, please don’t hesitate to speak with me or any member of our staff team – we are always here to listen and support you.

We are truly grateful for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, we can make this a wonderful year of learning, growth, and joyful memories for all our children here at Riverside. We’re so excited to share this journey with you.”

Michelle MacPhee - Headteacher

We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter. Here’s what you will find in this issue -

School Uniform & P.E. Kit
Staffing Update
Arrival at school & Safe travel
Welcome Meetings
Become a parent volunteer
Parent council update
Absence reporting procedures
Nursery update
School Communications - update
Digital Learning Platforms
Riverside Out of School Care (ROSC)
Learner Conversations
Dates for your diary

School Uniform & P.E. Kit

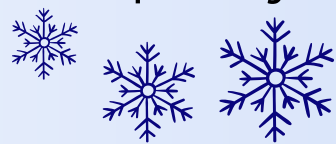
The children are looking very smart in their uniforms – thank you for your continued support with this. Don't forget, our **Re-use, Re-Love school uniform service** is always available if you need it.



On their class P.E. day, children should come to school wearing their P.E. kit: a white polo shirt or plain white T-shirt, school sweater or hoodie, and shorts, leggings, or joggers. We appreciate your support in ensuring children are dressed appropriately for P.E.



Join us for our **Warm Up for Winter** event from 22nd–25th September, 3:00–3:30pm in the Hub area. Come along and pick up some winter clothing to keep cosy!



The 2025/26 application form for **Free School Meals and the Footwear and Clothing Grant** is available on the Stirling Council Website. Follow the link below for application details -



<https://stirling.gov.uk/learning-education/schools/school-meals-uniforms/footwear-clothing-grant-school-meals/>



Even if your child is in P1-P5 and receives free school meals there are still benefits for applying if you are eligible and we would encourage you to do so.

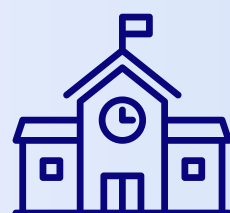
Staffing Update

We would like to welcome Miss Carroll back to Riverside Primary School. Miss Carroll is joining us as a Raising Attainment Champion.

We would also like to welcome our new SLAs - Miss Bergin, Miss Campbell, Mr Evans, Miss Tominey and Miss Storie, our Gaelic student joining our GME classes on a year's placement.

Arrival at school & Safe Travel

School starts promptly at **9:00am**. Children should arrive on time and will be welcomed by a member of the SLT at their allocated door. They will then go straight to their classroom to be greeted by their class teacher. At the end of the day, children will be dismissed by their class teacher.



Please can we ask for your support in discussing with your child the importance of safe conduct when travelling to and from school. Can we also ask that all children and adults dismount when entering the school grounds. Please can you ensure all children cycling or scooting wear appropriate helmets.



Welcome Meetings

Please see the school website noticeboard and School App for the SLT Welcome Meeting presentation. If you have any questions or wish to discuss any of our school priorities in more detail, please get in contact via the school email address..



Become a Parent Volunteer

We would love to welcome more parents and family members into our school community as volunteers. If you (or someone in your family) would like to get involved and support us, we'd be delighted to hear from you! Simply complete the volunteer slip that will be sent home and return it to school – we can't wait to work together and make a difference.



Parent Council Update

Our Parent Council AGM took place on Thursday 18 September. Everyone is welcome! Please volunteer if you can – we have upcoming fundraising activities including our Halloween Disco, playground developments and Christmas Fayre.

If you would like to find out more and become involved please get in touch at
RAPPSirling@gmail.com

Absence Reporting

Please use the telephone number 01786 237933 to report your child's absence between 8.45-10.00am. If your child has not arrived at school and we have not heard from you, we aim to follow up any unexplained absences by phoning your contact numbers. It is important that the school has the most up to date contact numbers at all times. At times messages are left on phones if there is no response, so please take this into account when giving us contact numbers. This system has been set up to support you in keeping your child safe.

If your child has been absent from school, please let us know the reason either in writing, by telephone or via email. This is to help us record any absences with the correct codes for Scottish Government statistics.

All schools are required to provide The Scottish Government with attendance and absence statistics. In an effort to ensure that the information we pass on is as accurate as possible, we are required to follow up any unexplained absences on a regular basis. An increasing amount of time is being spent following up unexplained absences. Any unexplained absences will be followed up by a member of our Senior Leadership Team. Those absences where we have not received a response will be recorded as unauthorised. I am sure that you will appreciate the need for accurate figures and thank you for your support and co-operation regarding this process.

Medicines

From time to time, there may be a need for your child to receive medication during the school day.

Any request to administer prescribed medication must be accompanied by clear, written, signed instructions from the parent/carer on **“Parent/Carer Request for Administration of Prescribed Medication” form** (available from the school office).

Where there is any change to the medication then updated instructions must be given to the school. All prescribed medication must be brought to the school office by a parent/carer.

All out of date and unclaimed medication is disposed of at the end of every school year, therefore if your child requires regular medication for any reason (e.g. asthma) you should bring in new medication and complete the relevant forms at the beginning of each session.

If you are unsure of any of these procedures, please contact the school office where staff will be only too pleased to help you.





Nursery Update



As we begin our new term we like to welcome our new families and returning families. It is great to see the children settle so well, thanks for your support through transitions and the sharing of information. We always have a big focus on relationships and over the last few weeks we have seen new friendships being built, children becoming confident seeking out adults and trying new experiences and learning new routines.

We have 3 Learning intentions that we are focusing on across the nursery in Health and Wellbeing. We are looking at ways we can share our needs and feelings. In numeracy and maths we are developing our understanding of numbers naming, recognising and identifying these. In communication we are developing our listening and talking skills.

The community is important to Riverside - this involves walks in the community, book bug sessions, Forest schools and we also have links with Riverside Naturally and Tree link which involves planting and growing opportunities.

We continue to use the wider school spaces to support extended learning such as the library, STEM classroom, Gym hall, Studio and Adventure Playground and this year will also be visiting a local retirement home regularly to share our learning, reading and singing. Our improvement plan this year looks at supporting Home learning. We have over 30 bags we have created that can be used at home to support children learning in the following areas Maths, language, Gaelic, STEM, Digital Safety, Health and Wellbeing and these have stories, games and hands on learning resources to support learning. Please see a member of staff if you are interested in taking a bag home. We will also be starting our home lending library where children can choose 4 books a month to take home.

Thanks for your continued support and as always we welcome your feedback and ideas to improve.

School Communications: School Office

Our school phone number: **01786 237933**

Our school office is staffed between **8.30am and 3.30pm.**

Please ensure your child knows their going home arrangements in the morning before school. We understand that on the odd occasion, these may change. If you need to let your child know of a change in circumstances during the school day, please call the school office and ensure that you have spoken to a member of staff in person.

It is not suitable to email the school with last minute adjustments, as our email is not constantly monitored and we cannot guarantee that we will pick up the email in time to inform your child before the end of the day.

We do ask all children to come back into the school office if there is no-one there to collect them as planned so that we can contact you. **Please reinforce this message with your child.**

Please can we ask that if you are emailing the school you include your child's full name and class.

School Communications: Update

We are in the process of transitioning from our current School App to Seesaw as our main form of communication with families.

Seesaw will become fully live after the October holiday.

In the meantime, please continue to use the School App to stay up to date with all our latest news and information.



School App (Current)

Please make sure you have downloaded the School App.

Search for 'PSA' in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

If you need the username and PIN, please email the school office.

Coming Soon — Seesaw

After the October holiday, Seesaw will become our main communication platform.

More details and instructions on how to get started will be shared with you soon.

Thank you for your support as we move to this new and exciting way of staying connected!



Digital Learning Platforms

Please ensure you access your child's digital learning platform regularly as we will be celebrating/sharing learning and communicating with home on these platforms.



Riverside Out of School Care (ROSC)

ROSC is taking bookings for its October Holiday Club which will be running from Monday 13 October to Friday 17 October and Monday 20 October to Friday 24 October.

The sessions are £36.29 a day with a sibling discount, 8.30am -5.30pm, based at ROSC with an emphasis on outdoor play and fun Halloween activities. Minimum numbers apply.

Please email Rosco@hotmail.co.uk for further information and a booking form.



Learner Conversations

Each week, your child's teacher will share a 'Learner Conversation' to their learning platform. This is a great way to connect with what they have been learning in school and to chat about their achievements and progress.

Here are some helpful conversation starters when engaging in a conversation about learning -

- "What was the most exciting thing you learned today?"
- "If you could teach me one thing from your day, what would it be?"
- "What was something tricky you worked hard on today – and how did you do it?"
- "Did you discover something new or surprising today?"



Dates for your diary



Harvest Celebration



Our Harvest Celebration, to which all parents and carers are invited, will be held in school on **Thursday 9 October at 10.00 am** this is an inclusive non religious celebration.

We are asking you for donations to our Riverside Larder and Start Up Stirling . Please send your donations to school with your child or alternatively drop at our reception during the month of September or on the day of the celebration.

Learning Focus Week

w/c 22 Sept – Maths Week Scotland “Wild Maths”

This week, take some time to chat with your child about what they’ve been learning in school – celebrate their achievements, ask questions, and explore their ideas together to help spark even more curiosity and excitement for learning.



Further dates (as shared on our family calendar):

Thursday 18 Sept Parent Council AGM

w/c Monday 22 Sept ‘Warm Up for Winter’

w/c Monday 22 Sept ‘Maths Week Scotland’

Thursday 9 Oct 10am Harvest Celebration

Friday 10 Oct School closes 3.15 pm for October break

Monday 27 Oct School re-opens 9am

Thursday 30 Oct Parent Council Hallowe’en Disco

Thursday 25th Sept Parent/carers Consultations

Wednesday 1st Oct Parent/carers Consultations

School Holiday Dates

School Holiday Dates for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 are available on the Stirling Council website.

<https://stirling.gov.uk/learning-education/schools/school-holidays/>