

Community Wellbeing Newsletter

As we near the end of the Autumn Term we can feel the excitement of Christmas and the impending holidays growing. Some of the students enjoyed a trip to the Victorian Christmas Fayre in Worcester last week... a good time was had by all!

The school is in full preparation mode for our own Christmas Fair next week. It is sure to be a fabulously festive extravaganza, please do come along and enjoy the chocolate tombola and the many stands the students have planned.

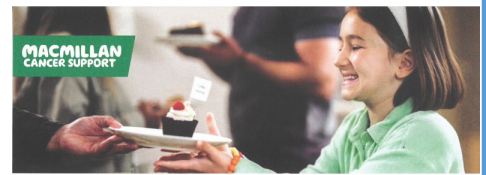


I would like to say a big thank you to all the help raise money for MacMillan back in September.

For some this can be a challenging time of year, please don't forget there is always support available at Riversides.

Finally from all at Riversides.... We wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

VALUE of the Term—BE KIND



Thank you so much!

For supporting those living with cancer

**Macmillan
Coffee Morning 2023**

This certificate is presented to
Riverside School
& friends

For your kind contribution of
£131.01

To help support those affected by cancer. Thank you.

Celine

Celine & the Coffee Morning Team

7 Nov 2023

Dates for the Diary

Friday 8th December—Non-Uniform Day, please bring a chocolate donation for the Tombola

Friday 15th December—Christmas Jumper Day (Don't forget to bring you pound for save the Children)

Wednesday 20th December—P1, P2, P3 and Y7

Thursday 21st December—Y8,9,10d and 10s

Thursday 1st February—Time to Talk Day

Friday 2nd February—Wear **Red** for British Heart Foundation

5th to 11th February—Childen's Mental Health Week



Christmas Holiday

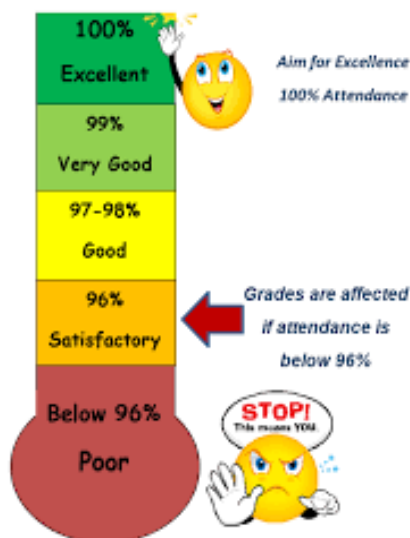
End of Term **Friday 22nd December at 12:00 RETURNING TO SCHOOL TUESDAY 9th January 2024.**

House Points Update

After 4 challenges the Rapids remain in the lead....

Rapids	Wolves	Warriors
181	123	143

Attendance



Currently whole school attendance is **80.1%**, which is a slight improvement since the last news letter. We are still striving to reach **96%**. As parents and carers you play an essential role in making this happen.

We realise there are times when your child will not be able to attend, for example when they are unwell (see guidance in last months newsletter), ***please remember to report the absence on every day that they cannot attend or answer the phone if we call.***

Birthdays - Although we understand that Birthdays are a special day for our students, this is not a reason to be off school and in fact can be a really nice time to spend with their friends in class. ***Days off for Birthdays will NOT be authorised.***

Appointments - Parents are asked to make routine medical and dental appointments outside school time. Where this isn't possible please provide a copy of the appointment letter and remember it is always better to attend for some of the time, rather than missing the whole day.

Holidays - Cheaper holidays outside of term time is **NOT** considered exceptional and will not be authorised.

If a parent wishes to request leave of absence, they should notify the school well in advance of the proposed leave commencing in writing. Parents will need to demonstrate that their circumstances and/or the nature of the leave requested are truly exceptional. If the reason for leave is not deemed by the Headteacher to be 'exceptional' then the application will be declined.

National Fuel Poverty Day

The end of November was national fuel poverty, with the recent drop in temperature and persistent rain it is more important than ever to find ways to try and save money on our energy bills and know where to get help if needed.

National Energy Action (NEA) – is the national fuel poverty charity, working to ensure that everyone in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is warm and safe at home. Many households in the UK are in need of more energy bill help. The NEA have a **Warm and Safe Home advice service (WASH)**, which provides free support and advice to people in England and Wales on their energy bills and how to keep warm and safe in their homes.



Speak to an adviser
Call **0800 304 7159**



Talk to us on [webchat](#). Our webchat is open 13:00 – 16:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays



Make a Referral
[Click here to fill in an online referral form](#)

The Worcestershire Household Support Fund is still open for those most in need, like families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers, and people with disabilities who would otherwise struggle with energy bills, food and water bills. [Household Support Fund | Worcestershire County Council](#)

The Household Support Fund is open from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

Recipe of the Month

December 13th is national hot chocolate day, this months recipe should be an ideal accompaniment to a hot chocolate and one for the kids to enjoy too.

Ingredients:

175g dark muscovado sugar
85g golden syrup
100g butter
3 tsp ground ginger
1 tsp ground cinnamon
350g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 egg, lightly beaten

To finish

100g white chocolate and some edible silver balls



Method

STEP 1

Heat the sugar, golden syrup and butter until melted. Mix the spices and flour in a large bowl. Dissolve the bicarbonate of soda in 1 tsp cold water. Make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients, add the melted sugar mix, egg and bicarbonate of soda. Mix well. At this stage the mix will be soft but will firm up on cooling.

STEP 2

Cover the surface of the biscuit mix with wrapping and leave to cool, then put in the fridge for at least 1 hr to become firm enough to roll out.

STEP 3

Heat oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead briefly. (At this stage the dough can be put into a food bag and kept in the fridge for up to a week.) Cut the dough in half. Thinly roll out one half on a lightly floured surface. Cut into shapes with cutters, such as gifts, trees and hearts, then transfer to baking sheets, leaving a little room for them to spread. If you plan to hang the biscuits up, make a small hole in the top of each one using a skewer. Repeat with remaining dough.

STEP 4

Bake for 8-10 mins until they darken slightly. If the holes you have made have closed up, remake them while the biscuits are warm and soft using a skewer. Cool for a few mins on the baking sheets, then transfer to a wire rack to cool and harden up completely.

STEP 5

Break up the chocolate and melt in the microwave on Medium for 1-2 mins, or in a small heatproof bowl over simmering water. Drizzle the chocolate over the biscuits, or pipe on shapes or names, then stick a few silver balls into the chocolate. If hung up on the tree, the biscuits will be edible for about a week, but will last a lot longer as decorations.



Foodbank Christmas Opening Hours

Monday 18th December—OPEN 11am to 2pm

Tuesday 19th December—OPEN 11am to 2pm

Wednesday 20th December— OPEN 11am to 2pm

Thursday 21st December—CLOSED

Friday 22nd December—OPEN 11am to 2pm

WEEKEND CLOSED

Monday 25th December—CLOSED - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 26th December— CLOSED - Bank Holiday

Wednesday 27th December— OPEN 11am to 2pm

Thursday 28th December— OPEN 11am to 2pm

Friday 29th December—OPEN 11am to 2pm

WEEKEND CLOSED

Monday 1st January —CLOSED - Bank Holiday

Then back to usual opening hours of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 11am—2pm.

Home Upgrade Grant Scheme (HUG2)

Free home energy efficiency improvements for low-income households not connected to mains gas for central heating.



What is the Home Upgrade Grant scheme?

The Home Upgrade Grant scheme (HUG2) is designed to help improve the comfort and energy efficiency of lower income homes in Worcestershire that are not heated by mains gas central heating. The scheme offers several other benefits, including reducing a home's carbon footprint and energy bills, with no cost to the resident.

Worcestershire County Council is working with Redditch Borough Council, Bromsgrove, Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils to deliver this programme.

If you live in Worcester City or Wyre Forest District, visit your council's website for information on the schemes operating in your area.

Homeowners and private renters can apply if they think they meet the eligibility criteria and their property is suitable. Private renters need to seek permission from the landlord.

Eligible landlords should not own more than 4 private rental properties and will be required to contribute at least one third of the total costs of the measures installed. If the measures identified are priced higher than the recommended Government guidelines, then the landlord would be asked to contribute the difference.

For more information visit [Home Upgrade Grant Scheme \(HUG2\) | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Flu Vaccination Information

As we are nearing the end of our 2023/24 flu season, We would just like to take this time to thank you for your co-operation and assistance this year,

We have our final catch-up clinics which will be taking place on **09 December 2023, 09:00 - 13:00** in both **WORCESTER** and **KIDDERMINSTER** for those parents that have missed the opportunity to consent for the vaccination. This is to be offered to **Reception - Year 11 (ALL SPECIAL SCHOOL STUDENTS)**. We have booked catch up sessions for some schools where the uptake was slightly lower than others however, with the hard stop on 15th December, this has made it extremely difficult for us to offer catch up's to all schools that require one. If you have not been contacted for a catch up to be arranged, we would appreciate if you could make parents aware of these final clinics which will be booked by **APPOINTMENT ONLY**.

The flu nasal spray will **NOT** be accessible after the 15th December from any provider/service, so this will be the final opportunity to administer the flu nasal sprays/IM this year.

We will disclose the location of this clinic when parent's contact our office.

If you have any feedback with regards to our services provided for this years flu season, we would appreciate it if you could complete the below survey so we can continue to provide our schools with the highest standard of service we can.

Secondary School Survey:

[Vaccination UK Satisfaction Survey 2023/2024 - Secondary Schools \(surveymonkey.co.uk\)](#)

Primary School Survey:

[Vaccination UK Satisfaction Survey 2023 - Primary Schools \(surveymonkey.co.uk\)](#)

The flu vaccine is the safest, most effective protection against flu.





RIVERSIDES
EVERY STUDENT MATTERS

Term Dates September 2024 – July 2025

*Professional Development (PD) Days are allocated
for staff training and school is closed to all pupils*

AUTUMN TERM 2024

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY (1)	Monday 2nd September
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY (2)	Tuesday 3rd September
TERM STARTS FOR PUPILS	Wednesday 4th September
HALF TERM HOLIDAY	Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY (3)	Monday 4th November
RETURN TO SCHOOL	Tuesday 5th November
END OF TERM	Friday 20th December at 12:00pm

SPRING TERM 2025

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY (4)	Monday 6th January
TERM STARTS FOR PUPILS	Tuesday 7th January
HALF TERM HOLIDAY	Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February
RETURN TO SCHOOL	Monday 24th February
END OF TERM	Friday 11th April

SUMMER TERM 2025

TERM STARTS FOR PUPILS	Monday 28th April
MAY DAY HOLIDAY	Monday 5th May
HALF TERM HOLIDAY	Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May
RETURN TO SCHOOL	Monday 2nd June
END OF TERM	Friday 18th July at 12:00pm
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY (5)	Monday 21st July