



Two Rivers Primary School News

Issue 6 January 2026



Diary Dates:

Tuesday 3rd February

Parents evening

Friday 6th February

NSPCC Number Day

Tuesday 3rd February

Parents evening

Tuesday 10th February

Safer Internet Day

Monday 16th February

– Friday 20th February

Half Term

You will receive more information about these events nearer to the time.



Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year, and a very warm welcome to our first newsletter of 2026. I hope the start of this new year has brought you a sense of renewed energy and optimism. Many of us take this opportunity to think about resolutions or promises we'd like to make for the year ahead - have you made any for 2026?

Here at school, we've been reflecting on this too. As a staff team, one of our shared aims for the year is to bring even more joy, connection, and positivity into our daily routines. To help us do this, we are planning to include more singing and signing with everyone across the school. We hope this will give us all an uplifting boost and create even more opportunities for shared celebration and communication.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you at Parents' Evening on Monday 3rd February. During your appointment, you will receive your child's up-to-date IEP along with information about their current progress. It will also be a valuable chance to talk together about what is going well and how we can continue to support your child's learning journey. We also have a questionnaire about holiday time activities, as we are trying to plan to provide a suitable offer to support families over the Summer holiday period, so your input is needed here to make it something that is useful to everyone.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to a positive and enriching year ahead.

Warm regards, Laura Slinn



Early Years

We began the Spring Term feeling very wintry and made the most of the cold weather to experience snow and ice.



The children have been exploring themed activities right across the curriculum linked to our new 'Transport' topic. These have included: exploring cause and effect and small world toy vehicles, using ramps and tunnels, exploring how magnets can be used to stick toy trains together, making cars out of play dough and exploring numbers, colours and shapes with different vehicles.





We have also had lots of fun using different equipment to help develop our physical skills and sensory regulation.



Finally, at the end of the month, we took part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch and used one of our Forest School sessions to look for different birds and explore sensory activities with different seeds and cereals that we could also use to feed the local birds!





Red 1&3

We have thoroughly enjoyed beginning our new topic, *To Infinity and Beyond*. The children were captivated by our WOW starter—a sensory story titled “Wiggly Worm Goes to Space.” This engaging experience included the use of flowerpots, shaving foam, a space-themed umbrella, and worm-shaped balloons to bring the story to life.



In Maths, we have been exploring shape, mass and exploring money. Red 3 particularly enjoyed baking planet- and star-shaped biscuits, using digital scales to carefully measure each ingredient. Red 1 enjoyed a role-play shop and exchanging a coin for items.





Red 2

Red 2 have had a busy start to the term. We enjoyed our new topic 'pets' **WOW** starter. We have enjoyed our sensory story 'Peekaboo woof woof', In maths we have looked at 'Heavy and Light', Printing in Art & DT, and we looked at 'Noah's Ark' in RE.





Yellow 1



Wow Starter

We started off our new topic 'Amazing Animals' this week with our **Wow** starter. The children had opportunity to create art work based on animals, enjoy a sensory story and perform as different animals in a movement lesson.



English

We have started to learn about different animals in our English lessons. We have taken part in explorative play comparing animals from the UK and Africa, and some students were able to write these down. The children then read our new story 'Going on a Lion Hunt' and recreated the story in the classroom.





Table Cricket

The Yellow 1 students have been lucky enough to try Table Cricket this half term, they have been working in small groups, learning the rules and competing against each other.



Bucket Jobs

We have been introducing our 'bucket jobs' in Yellow 1, to gain interest and introduce topics and tasks. Staff bring out a toy/activity/object to show, the children really enjoy it and look forward to these 'jobs'. It's very exciting anticipating what will happen!



Geography

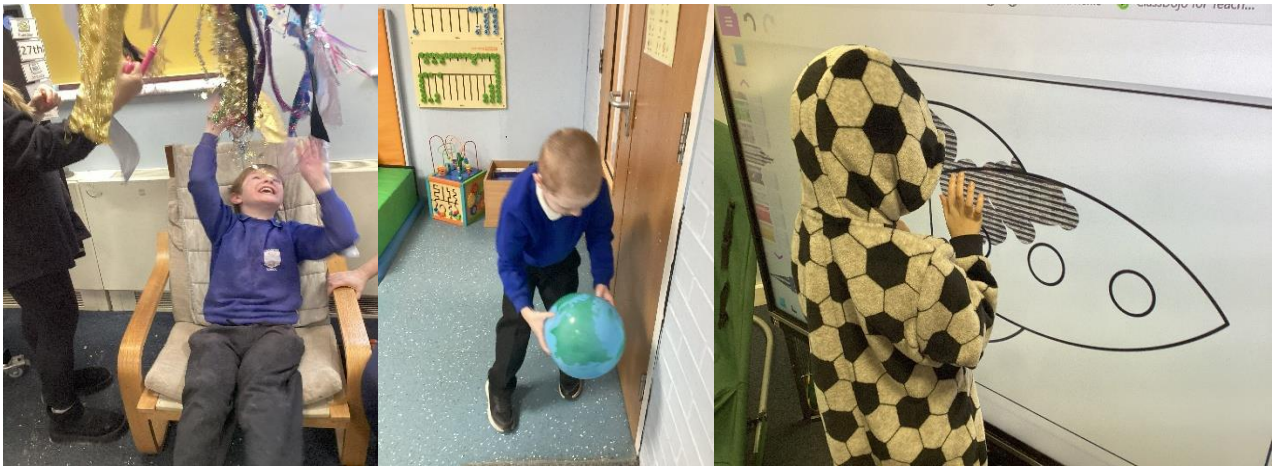
In our Geography lessons we have been exploring animals from different countries, seeing if we could guess which type of country they are from. We then sorted them into habitat groups and decided where they would live.





Yellow 2

This month in Yellow 2 we have been exploring our new topic 'To the Moon and Back', we have been enjoying our sensory story '8 Little Planets', engaged in sensory exploration of space and used ICT to design rocket ships.



In Maths we have been looking at exchange and how we can exchange money for items. We sang the song '5 currant buns' and practised giving away a penny in exchange for a bun.



During our community visit slot we have enjoyed our trips to Pooley Park and Planters, we are working hard on our social skills when in the café and are practising being kind in our community.





Yellow 3

Yellow 3 were happy to be back in school in January and were excited to start our new topic – Amazing Animals!

In English we have been reading the brilliant book *We're Going on a Lion Hunt* – it's like the bear one but with a lion! Children have been amazing at joining in with key words and the repeated choruses. They enjoyed remembering the sequence of events before finding the lion in a 'big dark cave'



In maths we have been busy exploring number and place value, money and this week we have looked at weight – heaviest to lightest. Children enjoyed going to the Yellow 3 'shop' and buying items with their pennies and counting them out. They also put coins into value order from 1p to £1. We had lots of fun with a set of scales and weighed lots of things in the room to see what was heaviest and lightest!





Science has been exciting because we have been looking at lots of amazing animals and the different groups they belong to. We learnt about mammals, reptiles and fish and how they can be the same but different. We then found out about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores and what they like to eat! Children enjoyed going on an animal hunt around the school and we did some painting of our favourite carnivore – the lion!



In geography we have found out about animals from all around the world and where they live. We sorted animals into the continents they can be found in and discussed how they have different coverings such as feathers, fur or scales.

In DT we have explored lots of different foods and thought about what is healthy and unhealthy. Children were brave and tried some different kinds of fruit and then recorded their likes and dislikes.





Yellow 4

This half term we have really been working hard. In our English lessons we loved the story "We are going on a Lion hunt!" We became really animated during the telling of the story, joining in with the actions and repeated phrases. We then made our own Story maps when retelling the story.



In PE we have been enjoying our gymnastics topic. We have been using the equipment and moving in different ways. We have explored different ways to travel, balance and jump!



In music we have been following our topic in Charanga! We enjoyed using our instruments and following the instructions of the conductor.





Blue 1



WOW starter

Our topic this half term is 'Space 5,4,3,2,1'. We started our topic with a WOW starter. We made flying saucers, papier mached and decorated planets. Had our faces painted and made space biscuits. E had a great day and loved being aliens and astronauts every time we heard the Star Wars music.





Space Science

As part of our topic we are learning all about our solar system and the scientific reason behind night and day. This week we looked at the order of the solar system and learnt facts about each planet including distance from the sun and number of moons. We attempted to make play dough models of the solar system considering scale. We then labelled them.



Gymnastics

This half term we are developing our gymnastic skills further. We have rehearsed standing positions, jumps and rolls. We will be moving onto performing these moves at different heights on our PE apparatus.





Blue 2



We have had a fun filled start to the new year with visits to Pooley Park with children gaining in confidence using the play equipment and some trying out new equipment, as well as sharing the park with members of the community.

In class we had a great **WOW** starter day for our topic of **Magic Carpet Ride** we explored India, China, Arctic, Jungle and Space. We have tried new foods when learning about India.

Children have enjoyed time together working hard on their social skills and learning to take turns and work together. We have also been focussing on our independence and communication skills.





Blue 3

We have started our new topic which is all about Space. We began with our Wow starter which included making space biscuits as well as lots of space themed Arts and crafts.



We have a new timetable which includes P.E Gymnastics and Swimming. The children are enjoying all of the physical aspects of our curriculum.

The pool at Kingsbury school has been refurbished and is a super facility. We have the whole pool for our school session which is wonderful.





This week 19th January we have taken part in Bird week and are counting the different types of British Birds that we have seen.

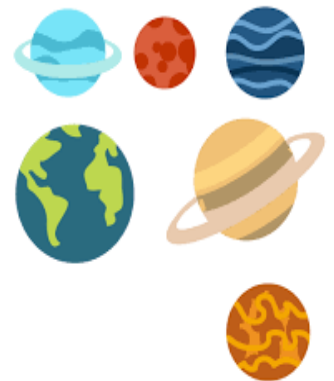
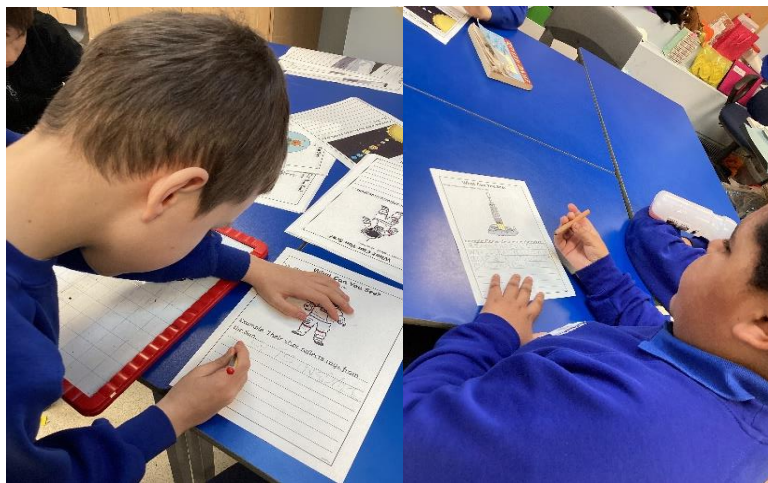


In Geography we are exploring maps and developing our map reading skills.

We used a plan of our school to find all the different locations of classrooms and outside areas.



In English we are looking at space themed stories and writing our own sentences. We will be exploring poetry and having a go at writing our own poems.



The highlight of our topic is visiting the Space Museum in Leicestershire. We are looking forward to seeing all the model rockets and experiencing the planetarium.

After our visit we will be able to tell you all about it!





Blue 4

In Blue 4 we have started our new topic of Space 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. We have had our wow starter where we create aliens out of balloons, made some paper plate space ships, decorated biscuits and launched some rockets.



We have also had our bird watching week. We have gone around school on a bird hunt and found some different birds. We have also made some bird feeders to put in our outside areas to see if we could see any birds whilst they eat their dinner.



One of the skills that Blue 4 have been learning in maths is how to weight different items and read the scales using grams. The children have all selected items from around the classroom and measured down how much they weighed.





Safe and Well News with Richard and Sue

Our names are:



Richard Bryan,
Designated Safeguarding
Lead



Sue Forest,
Family Liaison

Tuesday 10th February 2026 is Safer Internet Day and with a social media ban for children being considered in some countries, we would like to share some information about Online Safety with you. Please ask us if you need any help keeping children safe online.



Staying Safe Online

The internet is one of the greatest advancements of this century, opening up a world of learning, creativity, gaming and connecting. But how do you keep track of what your children are doing and make sure they're staying safe?

Whether you're an online expert or you are not sure where to start we've got 4 key tips to help you:

- explore the online world together
- talk to your child about staying safe online
- manage the software and tools your family use
- agree rules about what's ok and what's not



WHAT CHILDREN DO ONLINE AND ON SOCIAL NETWORKING

Children and young people go online to connect with friends, and make new ones, to browse the internet for information, chat with others and play games. They may:

- Search for information or content on search engines like Google, Yahoo and Bing
- Share images and watch videos through websites or mobile apps like YouTube, Instagram, and Pinterest
- Use social networking websites like Facebook



- Write or reply to messages on forums and message boards.
- Play games alone or with others through websites, apps or game console.
- Chat with other people through online games, game consoles, webcams, social networks and tools like WhatsApp.
- When online, children and young people can learn new things, get help with homework, express themselves creatively and connect with friends and family.

There are also risks, but by understanding and talking about the dangers you can help keep your child safe online.

Teach your children the five key Childnet **SMART** rules which remind young people to be **SMART** online. You should go through these tips with your children.

S – **SAFE** Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information – such as your name, email, phone number, home address, or school name – to people who you don't know online.

M – **MEETING** someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents'/carers' permissions and when they can be present.

A – **ACCEPTING** e-mails, messages or opening files from people you don't know or trust can be dangerous – they may contain viruses or nasty messages.

R – **RELIABLE** Someone online may be lying about who they are, and information you find on the internet may not be reliable.

T – **TELL** your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried.

Managing screen time is also very important especially at bedtime so please look at the following top tips to help you with that.

- ✓ Set a good example with your own device use
- ✓ Talk together about the time they spend online
- ✓ Agree an appropriate length of time that they can use their device
- ✓ Create 'screen free' zones at home
- ✓ Use technology and apps to help manage screen time



SAVE THE DATE

Safer Internet Day 2026 Tuesday 10 February

better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/saferinternetday



**Safer
Internet
Day 2026** Tuesday
10 February

Together for a better internet

better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/saferinternetday

#SID2026



SAVE THE DATE

10

02

26

mark your calendar!



myHappy mind

It's fantastic to hear that Two Rivers School is putting such a strong focus on the well-being of its students. When we feel calm and happy, we can do our best work, so making mental health a priority is really important.

The MyHappyMinds programme is a brilliant idea, especially with support from the NHS. It's great that there's also a parents' app, with free activities, breathing exercises, and songs that can help children at home.

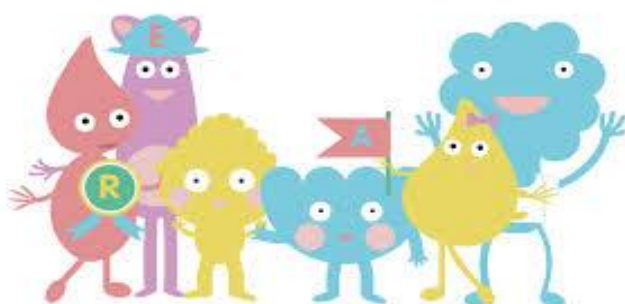
At school, students are encouraged to use these techniques throughout the day. This could be taking a few deep breaths before starting a task, using calming activities when they feel upset, or learning how to express their feelings in a positive way. It's all about helping children feel good, so they're ready to learn and be their best! Do you think the students enjoy using these techniques in school?

To access the myHappymind resources you can scan the QR code

Alternatively follow the link to the website;
<https://www.learn.myhappymind.org/Customer-Parents-Resources-Activation-Code>

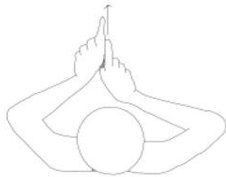
Authentication Code: 146201

Download
your FREE
Parent App





Sign of the Week



to try

To Try

To try, forefinger moves away from body.

You can see how to do the sign here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@makatoncharity>

Whole Class Attendance

Group	% Attend
PURPLE	96.57
RED 1	95.12
RED 2	95.64
RED 3	96.3
YELLOW 1	91.63
YELLOW 2	91.9
YELLOW 3	94.93
YELLOW 4	100
BLUE 1	94.1
BLUE 2	97.5
BLUE 3	95.95
BLUE 4	94.25

Congratulations to:

Yellow 4



**You have the best
Attendance for January**

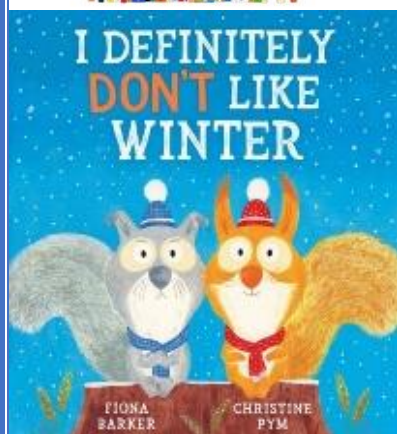




Library

RECOMMENDED READS

The recommended read for this month is;



I Definitely Don't Like Winter by Christine Pym & Fiona Barker

A brilliantly funny picture book about two best friends who just can't agree! Hank and Hoog are best friends - they do EVERYTHING together. Until one morning, when a single, crisp, brown leaf falls to the ground... Hank is so annoyed! Falling leaves mean winter is coming, and Hank definitely does not like winter. BRRRRRRR! But Hoog is overjoyed! Hoog loves winter - the snow, the snuggles, all of it! AHHHHHHH! Will these two friends learn to put their differences aside? You bet they will!

They may not agree on winter, but there's something they both definitely like: each other. And there's nothing more important than being best friends.

Click the link to watch the story;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eQVvWIDZBo>

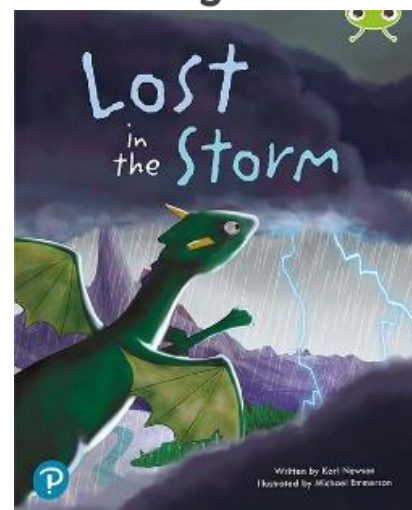
The Bug Club Reading Corner recommended read for this month is;

Lost in the Storm by Karl Newson

Smokey the dragon loves adventures, but one night she finds herself lost in a storm and plunges into the sea. She is saved by a kindly whale who takes her to the beach, but her wet wings prevent her from flying. In a cave behind a waterfall she meets an island boy who helps her dry her wings by the fire, gives her positive encouragement, and shows her the way back to her mountain. Smokey flies home only to encounter another storm – but this time proves that she can weather it and conquer her fears.

You can access this free e-book via the Active:

<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/resource/986>





What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

ROBLOX

PEGI RATING
7+

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a 'sandbox' title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including a group chat facility). This could expose children to risks such as scammers, online predators, harassment, griefers and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others – such as scam links or general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.

PUBLIC SERVERS

Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.

ONLINE DATERS

These are also called 'ODers' and are quite common in Roblox. An ODer is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this usually doesn't deter ODerers. Some player-built Roblox game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is actually free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some hidden costs. Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game, for example, using real money. People can also buy extra Robux (the in-game currency) to spend on cosmetic items in the game, while it's possible to purchase a private or VIP server.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply the appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.

PRIVATE SERVERS

If your child has some genuine friends to play Roblox online with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some players could invite other people – who might not necessarily be child friendly – into the private server. If your child is a Roblox fan, it's important to talk with them regularly about who they are playing the game with.

MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's OK to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with other people online safely.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday