

OUR FOCUS VALUE THIS TERM IS PERSEVERANCE.



Congratulations to our Seven Wonders award winners this week: **Roman Haydock, Isabelle Berry McPherson, Phoebe Greenhalgh, Roxy Vose, Alfie Gibson, Charlotte McAloon and Niamh Loftus.**

Bronze Awards: Lara Dobson, Erin Freeman.

Silver: Charlie Sutcliffe, Eloise Whitwood, Eve Anthony-Smith.

Gold: Maisie Hitchen.

Well done to you all and keep up the progress and hard-work!

Mother's Day Gift Shop: As always, this was a very popular event with many children choosing their Mother's day gifts – I hope that you had a relaxing day being spoiled! Thank you to the PTA for organising this! Can I take this opportunity to remind you of a few things the PTA have helped to fund this year:

- Partial transport for swimming (£1,700);
- A new Maths scheme for school (£500);
- £1000 of new Maths equipment;
- New reading support for school (£500);
- Online Maths and History support (£100);
- A Geography scheme (£75.00);
- New ICT equipment and other curriculum equipment as well as providing so many memorable events and memories for our children (£1500);
- Subsidising school trips - many schools ask for a full voluntary contribution for this which is usually around £20 per trip – we are able to cap ours to £10 because of fund raising by the PTA!

Thank you to the PTA!

Swimming: I would like to apologise for the late request for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of transportation to and from swimming. I too personally hate it when things are thrown at me without warning at the last minute. Forewarned is forearmed! Due to rising costs of transport there was a significant difference between the PTA contribution and the actual cost. Many schools charge parents the full cost of this so we extremely grateful for our PTA for their contribution. Any voluntary contribution made to school towards this transport is immensely appreciated – we too know how challenging times can be financially. Swimming lessons take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum therefore School pays for the lessons out of the School Budget. In order to continue with the programme, School politely asks for financial, voluntary assistance from

parents for this transport. However, should there be a specific reason for not contributing, financial or otherwise, I would be grateful if you could let us know in order for us to ascertain whether or not we will be able to continue to offer this kind of activity in the future. Many thanks.

Packed lunches and snacks: As part of our 'Healthy Schools' policy Parents are encouraged to provide a balanced packed lunch for their children. **Fizzy drinks and sweets are not allowed.** It has been noticed over the last few weeks that there has been an increase in the amount of chocolate and biscuits in packed lunches School guidelines advise that these are kept to a minimum. May I please also request that **grapes and cherry tomatoes** are cut up to avoid choking. **Due to allergies, nuts are not allowed into school.** Advanced thanks with your co-operation on this matter.

Parent voice is essential to further improving our school. Next week your child will be bringing home the actions we have taken so far in responses to the views of the parental questionnaire sent out in October. **Please may I take this opportunity to thank you for being such supportive and hardworking parents – we know we are teaching and developing the most precious things to you – your children - they really are the most wonderful people who deserve the very best.** As a school, I want us to be **limitless** in developing their potential. May I take this opportunity to again signpost you to a few ways your valued views on improvement can be gathered:

- **Parent Drop in Tuesday mornings 10:00am** Every Tuesday morning at 10:00am Mr Sands (Chair of Governors) will be in school to meet with Mrs Annette. If any parents/ carers have anything they wish to discuss please let us know in advance and we will make sure we are available.
- **Parent Council:** The next Parent's Council meeting has been rescheduled for: **Friday 13th April at 10am at the Lower Barn, Rivington** – all are welcome!
 - There is a member of staff on the door every morning. This is a good opportunity to mention to staff anything that may need passing onto a class teacher or to arrange a meeting. Sometimes you may wish to discuss an issue in more depth and if a teacher is available this may be possible immediately. We will always endeavour to speak over the phone or return a call as soon as we can. Alternatively, you can speak to Miss Redmayne in the school office who will be more than happy to arrange a convenient time for you to come in.
 - Next term will see the start of the 'Headteacher's Open Office' – an opportunity to come and talk to myself about any issues or concerns you may have about school. Further details to follow.

Rocket Fund: This week saw our fund reach the £1000 mark – WOW! We have now achieved 78% of our set target **for 5 new laptops.** Rocket Fund is a crowdfunding site which has been created for schools to raise money for ICT equipment for school. **I would like to say a huge thank you to those of you who have supported us so far – your generosity is outstanding! If you're interested in supporting us then visit: www.rocket.fund and search for Rivington. Every donation, big or small, helps! Again, many, many thanks!**

The Driveway: Please may I take this opportunity to remind you that with the return of the not too pleasant weather again there are certain areas of the school which can become slippery. The top of the drive is particularly prone to this. May I advise that care is taken when entering the grounds with a sensible walking pace and that we advise children, parents and visitors to wear flat shoes with a 'good grip'.

Easter Service: We will be holding an Easter Service in Rivington Church on Thursday 22nd March at 1:30pm. We would like to invite parents/carers, grandparents etc. and members of our church community. Refreshments will be served following worship and you are very welcome to stay and join us.

Remember – don't be late! It is so important that your child gets to school on time. Learning starts straight away in the classes and even a few minutes late could make a big difference. To help with multiple drop-offs, children are able to come into school from 8:50am. Children learn best when they arrive at school in a calm state and feel part of everything that is happening, right from the morning register. There are times when being late is unavoidable, however for the most part we ask our parents to ensure their children arrive at school on time, with all their necessary books and kit, ready for the day ahead. Did You Know..? 5 minutes late to school each day would amount to 3 whole school days missed over the year! Please come and see me if you are experiencing any difficulties with this.

Parent Pay: Please can you ensure that all Parent Pay accounts are up-to-date.

Dropping Off and Picking up from School –In the interest of the safety of the children and all pedestrians, please avoid parking on the zig-zag lines or near the terrible bend or on the pavement in any circumstances. Thank you for your cooperation.

Reporting your child absent: If your child is unwell and won't be able to attend school, please contact school to inform us of the absence. This can be done by telephoning school and selecting option 1.

SCHOOL BANK!

Our School Bank takes place in 'The Tree House' every Friday from 2:45pm.

Free School Meals: All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically qualify for universal free school meals. However children in the infants and the juniors may qualify for free school meals because you are in receipt of certain benefits, in which case you need to register your eligibility. If you are eligible your child could qualify for Pupil Premium funding from the Government which will come into school to improve pupil attainment or provide additional opportunities. If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Spring Term 2nd Half:

Wednesday March 21st: Egg-rolling 1:30pm in the school grounds.

Thursday March 22nd: Easter Service in Church 1:30pm.

Thursday March 22nd: Easter Bingo PTA – more details to follow!

Friday 23rd March: Easter Parade in the Hall.

Friday March 23rd: Easter 'Get Together' 2pm in the Hall.

Please come and see me if there are any issues with the above.

Thank you to all parents, carers and families for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs. Annette

