



RIVER ACADEMY
Issue 22

Headteacher's Update

28 March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope everyone has had a lovely week and is looking forward to the clocks changing this weekend. The school field has been cut, fertilised and top dressed and looks much healthier. Spring feels like it is on the way!



Netball

River Academy in its initial season only went and won the Reading Schools Netball Championship this week! In a tight final against Reading Girls School, they emerged victorious!! Ms Moore's fantastic coaching and limitless enthusiasm was a huge contributory factor to the victory, but so was a large squad who all practised endlessly ensuring they were match ready!



Football

The boys finished their season in 5th place which was frustrating, and they can feel unlucky with several games dominated by near misses, shots off the woodwork and general bad luck. They finished the league off with a win over Prospect and a draw against Theale Green. We go again next year!

Attendance

Another good week of attendance saw the school achieve 96.5% for the week although we did see a dip on Friday for the second week running. Please can we ensure Fridays remain as important as the other days of the working week?

Lecture

Thank you to Miss Angell and Professor Emma Aston from the University of Reading for our public lecture on Tuesday. We had over 60 people in the hall for the talk with visitors from the public, staff and 42 students assembled to hear a brilliant talk. It is a pleasure to work in a school where learning is valued by so many of our school community and the attendance from our students on a night when there was football and netball fixtures running simultaneously was fantastic.



Please do join us for our next on April 25th

RIVER ACADEMY
Community Lectures

A new series of FREE public lectures open to all

Lecture: Seals from Space- how polar explorers use satellites to study Antarctic wildlife

Join polar conservationist and leader of the "Seals from Space" research project Prem Gill to celebrate the Antarctic. Learn about its many animal inhabitants and how changes in this region are impacting our climate.

Antarctic ice seal populations can help show changes in the Antarctic ecosystem's status and health. But they live in an ever changing, hard to reach sea ice zone which makes them hard to study. Prem's research project "Seals from Space" meets that challenge in an unexpected way: he researches the seals and their habitat with high resolution satellite imagery. From examining pink poop stains left behind by giant penguin colonies to spotting a lone mother seal with her pup, Prem will show you how satellite images are used to study polar wildlife in the world's most remote and extreme continent, Antarctica.

Tuesday 29th April
4-5pm
Arrive by 3.45pm

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Community lectures

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Knowledge, Inspiration, Mind Expansion

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Prem Gill
University of Cambridge

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Free termly academic lectures for the school and wider community

No need to register - everyone welcome!

The chance to meet academics and ask questions!

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Sparx

Despite being at the end of the term and a degree of fatigue setting in the students are still putting in the grind for Sparx. Reader saw a completion rate of 98% and Maths 97% last week placing us in 6th and 3rd nationally. For the first time in 6 weeks, we were dethroned from top spot for the combined scores, however this was by a selective girls' grammar school so we're keeping good company! Thanks to all the parents who support so wholeheartedly with these two platforms.

Book Fair

The book fair has continued to be a rich source of income for our book fund and thank you to all the parents who have contributed towards it. So far your purchases have helped us to raise £862. Thank you so much!

Celebration Assembly

We had another brilliant Celebration Assembly last week. I happened to be standing on the bridge when of our winners ran across the bridge to their older brother delightedly holding aloft the certificates they had won on that afternoon. I am so pleased it matters so much.



Eid

Eid Mubarak to all our families this occasion in the next few days. I hope you are all able to spend some time reflecting, along with the celebrations that come with such an event.

From an attendance point of view, I can authorise one day for 'religious observance' if it is required by any of our students

End of term

Just a reminder that we finish at 3.15pm on Thursday 3rd of April and that Friday 4th April is an INSET day.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone!

Take care and best wishes

A. Hartley

Andy Hartley
Headteacher