



RIVER ACADEMY

## Student Bulletin

What's on next week?

Week 2

20-21st October 2025

### School timings:

Please be reminded of our school timings below:

Mon, Tues	
09:10-9:30	Tutor
09:30-10:30	Lesson 1
10:30-10:50	Break
10:50-11:50	Lesson 2
11:50-12:50	Lesson 3
12:50-13:40	Lunch
13:40-14:35	Lesson 4
14:35-15:35	Lesson 5



### Canteen Menu:



RIVER ACADEMY

	Monday	Tuesday
<b>Main Course</b>	Chicken Korma Rice & Naan Bread Carrots	Macaroni Cheese with Crispy Bacon Garlic Bread Salad
<b>Vegetarian</b>	Quorn Korma Rice & Naan Bread Carrots	Macaroni Cheese Garlic Bread Salad
<b>Jackets</b>	Jacket Potato Cheese/Tuna/Baked Beans/Salad	Jacket Potato Cheese/Tuna/Baked Beans/Salad
<b>Dessert of the Day</b>	Pear Crumble Custard	Jam Sponge & Custard
<b>Dessert Alternative</b>	Yogurt, Fresh Cut Fruit, Fruit Pot, Cookie	Yogurt, Fresh Cut Fruit, Fruit Pot, Cookie

# PE Updates!

Another blockbuster week here at River in PE department. Read on to find out about the girls football fixture, both rugby fixtures, electives, clubs and our new sports ambassadors for this year!

## In lesson reminders:

I am extremely happy with the way lessons are going so far this term. We have also been really lucky for a local coaching company to come in and deliver some rugby lessons for us and I know how well the children have received these coaches and learnt from their advice on how to improve.

Please remember that the kit expectations are either long **black** socks and shorts or black track-suit bottoms. With the weather turning colder, layers such as jumpers are encouraged.



## River Year 8's bounce back to go back to back

On Thursday of last week, we made the trip to Theale Green looking to build on our impressive start to the league in the previous week. Firstly, we played against St Crispins who our Y7's beat the previous week. But Year 8 rugby is different, even touch is a far more physically demanding game due to the constant movement around the pitch. It was clear from watching their game against Theale, they were a serious team and they proved it on the pitch. Their superior rugby knowledge around picking off isolated defenders and passing the ball into space proved too much for us and they ran out 15-5 winners. We had our chances and should've come away with more points, which I told the team about in the interval between games. I was very disappointed with the way we played and asked the team to show some bounce back ability in our game vs Theale, which we absolutely did. A great start from Ismael, Teodor, Nabil and Leif put us in complete command of the game from the outset. We exploited the space, picked out 2v1 situations on the pitch and dominated throughout. Strong defensive play from Aryan, Alyssa, Saanvi and Alman put us in a great position when we were out of possession, and we were clinical when we had the ball. A great display in our second game as we ran out 30-10 winners. We also had a game on Monday, where we beat both Denefield and Emmbrook in close encounters. Strong performances from Alman, Alyssa, Teodor, Maks and Nabil allowed us to win both games 10-5 and 15-0 to make it 4 wins from 6 for us this season. Whilst not playing our most fluid rugby and still with lots to work on, the team made the most of the ball whilst in attack and were clinical when inside the opposition half. Some outstanding defensive organization meant the opposition schools struggled to break us down and found it difficult to come away with any points. To only concede one try in two games is fantastic and the team should be proud of their teamwork.



## Year 7's learn a harsh lesson

On Tuesday, we played host to Piggot and MES-A, two of the top league teams. We were outplayed by MES-A in the first game and lost 20-0, although it could have been more! I sat the team down during their break and explained that they were not better players than us, but they exploited the space and moved the ball faster, meaning they could gain more width in attack and therefore exploit the gaps in our defense. The team took this message on and despite losing to Piggot, it was only 5-0 and we defended resolutely throughout the game, which I was very proud of the players for doing. There is no game next week due to it being half term, but we finish our league season with a trip to local rivals Highdown in the all-Thames-clash!

Just as an FYI, we play a version of touch rugby called T1, which is an emerging game launched by the RFU. Any information on this can be found here:

[T1 Rugby \(Non-contact\) | Rugby Football Union](#)

## Year 8 girls learn lessons in defeat



Our Year 8 girls had their first game this week and struggled against a very good Highdown team. Playing an actual game is so different to playing in training and the first game is always a good indicator as to how the students will fair across the season. However, special mentions must go to Zainab for amazing captaincy not just during the game, but before too, as she organised

a great warm-up before the game and showed great leadership skills throughout. Our star player from last year, Nadia, shone again on the pitch, as did Shakira and Molly who showed excellent tenacity, determination and a never say die attitude, which is all we ask for here at River. Even though the girls lost, I am so so happy and so pleased with their effort already this year. To attend training every week and show great sportsmanship, even when facing defeat, just show what awesome students they really are. We go again next week against the Wren and Bohunt, which promise to be blockbuster games! A massive thank you to Mrs Billingham and Mrs Clarke for teaming up and taking the team in Miss Moore's absence. This week, we make the short trip across Reading to the Wren. I will write an update in next weeks edition of how the team fared!

## Basketball Club

It was a great turn out this week at basketball club, with our numbers swelling back up to 20. We focused on game play and in particular the role of the player without the ball and how they can still effect the game, either through receiving the ball in space or through drawing a defender out of position. I am really looking forward to our fixtures starting at the end of November and seeing what the students can produce.

## Reading Rockets Take Off!

I sincerely hope our Y7's have enjoyed their team with Shaun, the Rockets Coach, over this term. I know how much Shaun has enjoyed working with them and I am looking forward to them having the opportunity again after Christmas. I have now finalised the list of Year 8's who have asked to be in the club next term and messages have gone home via email. Please ensure you are bringing the perfect kit in terms of trainers, tracksuit bottoms/shorts and long socks as well as your River PE kit.

## Sports Ambassadors

It was amazing to see so many applicants for our sports ambassador program this year from both Year 7 and Year 8. The best applicants were the ones who spoke about their leadership skills and how this would benefit them being a young leader. A lot of applicants spoke about their sporting experience which is fantastic, but often the best leaders aren't just the best players or athletes, and this is what I was looking for.

Whilst they admittedly were not utilised enough last year, they will be used much more this year for interhouse competitions and primary school events. Their first task is to help me out at the Y7 and Y8 interhouse competitions happening tomorrow and next Tuesday. A big congratulations to the following students:

### Year 7:

Thames	Kenent	Pang	Loddon	Lambourn	Avon
Renee	Alicia	Fynn	Kacper	Tyrus	Virat

### Year 8

Thames	Kenent	Pang	Loddon	Lambourn	Avon
Ruqqayah	Syesha	Zaydan	Shakira	Molly	Ondraiya
Oscar	Hazel	Ziara	Luke	Kai	Maks
					Alisa

### Fixture dates:

U12 Girls football		
Date	Opposition	Venue
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Oakbank/Maiden Erlegh/Bohunt	Oakbank
20 <sup>th</sup> November	JMA/Abbey/Maiden Erlegh School	JMA
27 <sup>th</sup> November	Denefield/Prospect/Maiden Erlegh	Denefield
4 <sup>th</sup> December	Wren/Little Heath A and B	Wren

U14 Girls football		
Date	Opposition	Venue
9 <sup>th</sup> October	Highdown/Oakbank	River
16 <sup>th</sup> October	Wren/Bohunt	Wren
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Blessed/Reading Girls	Blessed High
6 <sup>th</sup> November	Denefield/Little Heath-B	Denefield

U12 Basketball		
Date	Opposition	Venue
19 <sup>th</sup> November (requested to 18 <sup>th</sup> )	Oakbank	Oakbank
9 <sup>th</sup> December	BHF-A	River
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Denefield	Denefield
13 <sup>th</sup> January	BHF-B	River
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Bohunt	Bohunt
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Little Heath-A	Little Heath

U14 Basketball		
Date	Opposition	Venue
27 <sup>th</sup> November	Bohunt	Bohunt
4 <sup>th</sup> December	BHF	River
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Theale	River
15 <sup>th</sup> January	Prospect	River
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Denefield	River
12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Little Heath	Little Heath

U12 Boys Football		
Date	Opposition	Venue
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Denefield/Highdown	Denefield
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Wren/Willink	Wren
17 <sup>th</sup> March	BHF/Little Heath	River
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Prospect/Theale	Prospect
14 <sup>th</sup> April	Finals/TBC	TBC

U13 Boys Football		
Date	Opposition	Venue
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Denefield/Highdown	River
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Willink/Wren	Willink
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Little Heath/BHF	Little Heath
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Prospect/Theale	River
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Semi's	TBC



**Poetry Competition – open to Year 7 and 8!**

Are you creative?

Do you love to write?

Do you want to be in with a chance to win some *amazing* prizes (including £250, the chance to have your work published and Apple AirPods)?

If you are interested in entering, get an entry pack from Ms Myers.

All submissions needed to be handed in (handwritten) or emailed (typed) to Ms Myers by the 20th of October.

This is a **secret** —AT THE END of your DL lesson next week with *Mx Bowler* say the **secret password “flag”** to get a **merit** for reading the student bulletin.



# School Clubs



**Tuesday**

Girls football - Tuesday 15.35-16.35.

Y8 badminton – 15.35-17.00. This is sign up only and is now full for this term.

Choir- 15.45-16.45 in room 0.62 and all are welcome.

Homework Club- 15.35-16.30 in the LRC.

**Wednesday**

Basketball – 08.00-08.45 every Wednesday morning and all are welcome.

**Thursday**

Touch rugby – 15.35-16.30 every Thursday after-school and all are welcome.

Homework Club- 15.35-16.30 in the LRC.

Year 8 Book Club- 15.40-16.30 in room 1.24.

**Friday**

Reading Rockets basketball - this is Y7 for this term and is fully signed up.

# Achievements of the Week

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October

## Attendance

7 Kennet

99.3%

8 Avon

95%

7 Pang

99.0%

8 Pang

95%

8 Loddon

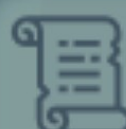
95%



## Top Merits

7 Loddon 2588 merits

8 Avon 1391 merits



## Sparx Heroes

Year 7

Year 8

Reader Science Maths

Emmanuel	Hei Yin	Alyssa	Jacob D
Thalia	Rushda	Ethan U	Aneeqa
Maisie	Milan	Feybian	Tymon
Emili	Hassan	Season	Henry
Thalia	Mati	Atul	Aneeqa
Harsha	Neron	Feybian	Scarlotte H
Niivedd	Pritika	Saanvi M	Jacob D
Leita	Divyanshu	Jake	Brooklyn
Katie	Elizabeth	Theo B	Benas
Lily-May		Joey	



## Top Merits

Year 7

Year 8

Thames

Niivedd

Deeptayan

Kennet

Sumaya

Alyssa

Pang

Akshith

Shylah

Loddon

Arthur

Zainab

Lambourn

Rushda

Likitha

Avon

Elizabeth

Aneeqa

The Bridge

Harrison



## Values Awards

Year 7

Year 8

Community	Bryonia	Sami
Empathy	Hussnain	Kian
Respect	Vipul	Shylah
Excellence	Arthur	Nahrelle
Determination	Victoria	Lilly-Rose

#WorkHardPlayHard

## Monthly Maths House Competition

The answer for September 2025 Maths Problem was 66 seconds (the first chime is at zero seconds).

### Maths Problem of the Month – October 25

Answer the question below. Submit your answer to your form tutor or Mrs Strong by the end of **Tuesday 21st October**. You can only submit one answer. All correct answers will be awarded 3 merits.

One day, Jack came home from the woods with a jar of spiders and beetles. He said that there were 8 creatures in the jar with a total of 54 legs.

3 How many were spiders and how many were beetles?

The logo for Kerboodle, featuring the word "kerboodle" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font inside a white speech bubble shape, set against a green background.

All students now have access to kerboodle as log in details have been shared in maths lessons this term. You can access the text book from home on kerboodle, if you wish to go over anything covered in lessons. We will be spending one more week on Chapter 2 for all year 7s (book 1) and year 8s (book 2) after half term, before starting on Chapter 3.

Please **DO NOT** get ahead of school with the topics, but please do use

kerboodle if you want to, to look back over anything you found tricky that we have covered so far in maths lessons.

**INSTUTION CODE IS dyu6**

### Half-Term Hype Challenge!



The countdown is on – 2 school days ‘til half term! 🎉  
Each morning before 9:05am, come find Mr. Mo and tell him what exciting plans you have for the half-term break (12 days in total) – whether it’s chilling at home, going on adventures, gaming marathons, or mastering the art of doing absolutely nothing! 😎

You’ll earn 1 merit just for sharing your holiday hype and spreading the good vibes!

Let’s make these mornings full of energy and half-term excitement! 💬 ✨





## Fourbears Reading Challenge! Year 7 - 9

Choose minimum *FIVE* boxes to complete by *1<sup>st</sup> December*. Once you have completed this, pop into Fourbears Books to collect your prize!



**PRIZE** - a free ticket to a private event at Fourbears where we will be decorating Gingerbread Men with free hot chocolate!

If you purchase your books at Fourbears, we will provide a 10% discount



Read a book about a character from a different background	Read " <i>When We Were Lost</i> " by Kevin Wignall	Read your parents favourite book from when they were a teenager	Read " <i>The Martian</i> " (young edition) by Andy Weir
Read " <i>Skulduggery Pleasant</i> " by Derek Landy	Read a book recommended by a teacher	Read " <i>Eragon</i> " by Christopher Paolini	Read a book from a genre you have never read before
Read a book published this year	Read " <i>Murder on a School Night</i> " by Kate Weston	Read a classic book	Read " <i>A Box Full of Murders</i> " by Janice Hallett
Read " <i>Robin Hood</i> " by Robert Muchamore	Read a non-fiction book	Read " <i>Silent Sister</i> " by Megan Davidhizar	Read a book with a colour or food in the title



info@fourbearsbooks.uk



0118 948 1747

## Year 8 Book Club

Do you love to read and talk about books?

Come along to the Year 8 book club!

Where? 1.24 (Ms Myers' Year 7 classroom)

When? Thursdays from 3.40-4.30

Our first book will be *The Blue Book of Nebo* by Manon Steffan Ros.



# Community Lectures

A new series of FREE public lectures  
Open to all!



Born twenty miles away in rural Hampshire, Jane Austen attended Reading's Abbey School as a girl, and remained a Thames Valley visitor all her life. Her readers have always noticed how odd it is that someone with a regional background and little formal education produced such brilliant, intelligent writing. How did she do it? And why are her novels still so popular after two and a half centuries? Paddy Bullard, who appeared on the recent BBC documentary 'Jane Austen: Rise of a Genius', will attempt to answer the question.

**Professor Paddy Bullard**  
University of Reading

**Lecture: Jane Austen: how a Reading girl invented the modern novel**

Free termly academic lectures for the school and wider community

No need to register - everyone welcome!

The chance to meet academics and ask questions!



**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November**  
**4-5pm**  
Arrive by 3.45pm



# Community Lectures

A new series of FREE public lectures  
Open to all!



Join Professor Steve Musson from the Department of Geography & Environmental Science at the University of Reading to explore the changing uses of town and city centres in the UK.

**Professor Steve Musson**  
University of Reading

**Lecture: Why are there so many new apartments in Reading? Exploring the changing uses of town and city centres in the UK**

Free termly academic lectures for the school and wider community

No need to register - everyone welcome!

The chance to meet academics and ask questions!



**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November**  
**4-5pm**  
Arrive by 3.45pm



## Taking place this term:

Make sure you are signing up to these amazing FREE opportunities!

**RIVER ACADEMY**

Silver Programme

Description		Y7/Y8?	Date	Time
Climate Change workshop		Y7 ONLY	25/9/25	3.45-4.45pm
Introduction to Latin		Y8 ONLY	29/9/25	3.45-4.45pm
UKMT Group Challenge workshop (working in teams of 4 trying out Group Challenge sessions)		Y8 ONLY	14/10/25	3.45-4.30pm
Community Lecture: Why are there so many new apartments in Reading? Exploring the changing uses of town and city centres in the UK.		EVERYONE- including parents, carers, staff, students, members of our community.	06/11/25	4-5pm
Intro to sports analysis		Y8 ONLY	13/11/25	3.45-4.45pm
Community lecture: Jane Austen: how a Reading girl invented the modern novel		EVERYONE- including parents, carers, staff, students, members of our community.	27/11/25	4-5pm
Brains behind the brawn		Y7 ONLY	04/12/25	3.45-4.45pm

Speak to Miss Angell if you have any questions.

More details about each session will be shared in the bulletin.



# RIVER CHOIR – Tuesday 15.40 – 16.10

Room 0.63 – All abilities of singing and beatboxing welcome



**RIVER  
ACADEMY**



**99+% Completion Rates**

**Sparx Reader: 99.7%**

**Sparx Maths: 99.2%**

**Sparx Science: 99.5%**

**1<sup>st</sup> out of 926 schools**

**2<sup>nd</sup> out of 2580 schools**



### Student Services Lost Property Announcement:



All **lost property** will be displayed **outside the canteen** on Monday and Tuesday next week.

Please take a look and collect anything that is yours!

Anything not collected will be given to charity and/or recycled!!

## REPORTING ABSENCES

If you need to report an absence, please do so **daily** by **8:00 a.m.** via the **Class Charts App**.

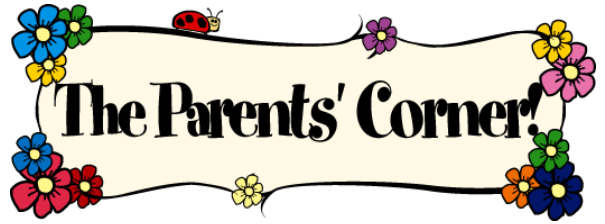
If you are unable to log the absence on Class Charts, please send an email to [riverattendance@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:riverattendance@maidenerleghtrust.org).

For any attendance-related matters, please contact us at [riverattendance@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:riverattendance@maidenerleghtrust.org), rather than [river@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:river@maidenerleghtrust.org)

## MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

If you need to book a medical appointment for your child, please try to arrange it **outside of school hours** whenever possible. If this isn't possible, aim to book appointments **early in the morning** or **towards the end of the school day**. This helps ensure students miss as few lessons as possible.

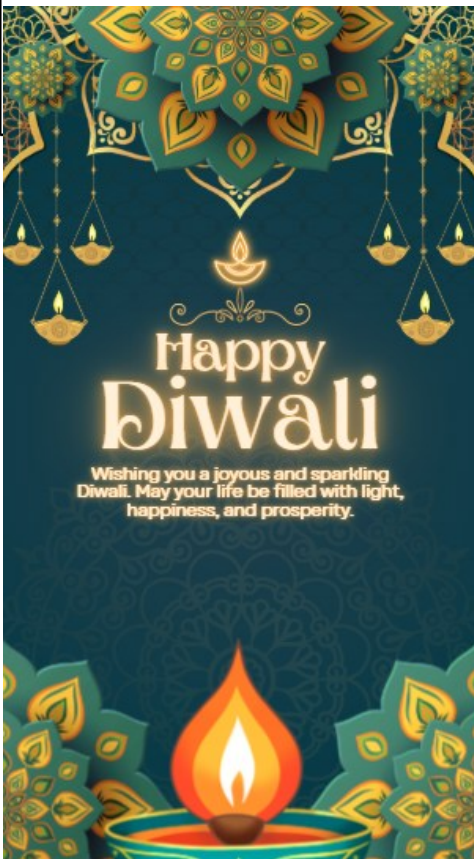
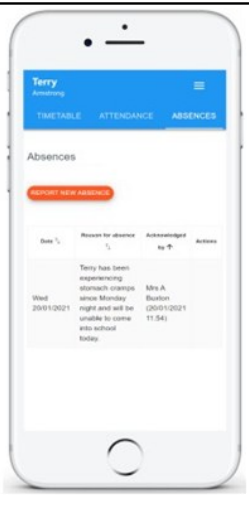
If your child is unwell, please refer to the **NHS guidance** when deciding whether to keep them at home: [Is my child too ill for school? – NHS](#)



If your school has decided to allow parents to report absences, you will see the **Absences** tab when viewing pupils from that school.

Selecting this tab will display a list of **absences that you have reported**, once you have reported them. This includes **when** the absence took place, the **reason** for the absence and who **acknowledged** your absence report.

To report an absence, click on the **Report new absence** button.



Next, enter the details of the reported absence into the **form** provided.

You can also include up to 5 **files** in your absence report as **supporting evidence**. To do this, click on the **Attach supporting evidence** button and select the files of your choice.

Click on the **Submit** button to send your pupil's absence report to their school. The absence can be **edited** and **deleted** until it has been **acknowledged** by a teacher.

Date of absence  
26/01/2021

Reason for absence  
Terry missed the bus today.

Please report your child's absences as soon as possible

Attachments

**+ ATTACH SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

You can upload a maximum of 5 attachments, each up to 250mb in size.

**SUBMIT** CANCEL

## Happy Diwali to those who celebrate.

**School will approve one days absence for religious observance. Please report the absence as explained above**