



The Riverside Review

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year. It has been a great, though very busy, start to the term, and it has been wonderful to see the school full of energy and enthusiasm once again.

All pupils have settled back into school life extremely well. They have approached their learning with positive attitudes and a real determination to do their best, and we are very proud of how well they are doing both in and out of the classroom.

I would like to thank you for your continued support—it plays such an important role in helping our pupils thrive. We are very much looking forward to the months ahead and to sharing many more successes with you.

Kind regards,

Mrs Kinnaird

This month the Secretary of State for Education has written to the school to congratulate staff and pupils on the outstanding outcomes achieved by disadvantaged pupils at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. The letter explains that the school's results place it among the highest-performing schools nationally, which is a significant and impressive achievement.

The letter recognises that these results are the outcome of the hard work, commitment, and high expectations of both staff and pupils. It praises the dedication of the school community and thanks staff for their continued efforts to ensure that all children are given the best possible opportunities to succeed, regardless of background.

The Secretary of State also highlights the school as an example of what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. The letter closes by passing on thanks and congratulations to both staff and pupils and expressing a desire to continue working together to raise standards for all children.

2026 The Year of Reading

2026 is the National Year of Reading, a UK-wide celebration designed to encourage children to read for pleasure. At Riverside, we're excited to take part and will be celebrating in lots of fun ways throughout the year. These will include special assemblies, during Breakfast Club, and a range of reading events and activities for pupils to enjoy.

To launch the year, we're sharing BookTrust's monthly reading challenge poster with families. The January challenge is to read a book that makes you laugh! At Riverside, some of our favourite laugh-out-loud reads include the *Dog Man* graphic novels, the *Daisy and the Trouble With...* series, *Dork Diaries*, and poems read aloud by Michael Rosen. Enjoying and celebrating stories together is a great way to build a love of reading.

NSPCC – Speak Out, Stay Safe

The NSPCC recently visited our school to talk with pupils about trusted adults and why it's important to know who they can turn to if they ever feel worried or unsafe. Children learned that trusted adults can be people both at home and at school, and that it's always okay to ask for help or talk about something that doesn't feel right.

The session also explored thoughts and feelings around bullying, helping pupils recognise different emotions and understand how bullying can affect others. Pupils were encouraged to speak up, support one another, and remember that they are not alone. The visit helped reinforce key messages about kindness, safety, and the importance of sharing concerns with a trusted adult.



A-Life 2026

In January we had A-Life return to deliver a mental health and wellbeing workshop. Years 1 – 6 were looking at the effects that exercise have on our mental health and ways to keep fit.



Music at Riverside

Our fantastic choir once again took part in young voices this year. All their hard work and dedication showed when they performed so well at the O2 Arena. Piano lessons have once again begun which is run by PianoFunClub and our newest addition is Rock Steady, where pupils learn different instruments and get to perform at the end of the term. Hopefully we have some future musicians in the making!



February Key Dates

- 5th February 3:30pm - E-safety Information Evening
- 6th February 8:40am - E-Safety Coffee Morning
- 9th and 10th February - Book Fair
- 12th February 3:30pm - Maths Information Evening
- 13th February 8:40am - Maths Coffee Morning
- 13th February - Last day of Spring 1
- 14th - 21st February - Half Term
- 23rd February - Return to school
- 24th February - Maths Parent Drop-in

BCG VACCINE AVAILABLE!

For those that have children under 18 months where parents and/or grandparents come from a high risk country.

If interested book your appointment with the QR code below.



SCAN TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT!

**06
FEB
2026**

Date: 06 Feb 2026

**Valance Library
Becontree Ave,
Dagenham RM8 3HT**