



The Riverside Review

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our February newsletter. It has been a busy and productive start to the year, and I am incredibly proud of the hard work, resilience and enthusiasm our pupils continue to show each day.

As we reached the half term break, this provided an opportunity for everyone to enjoy a well-earned rest. The school community works incredibly hard, and a restful pause allows children (and adults!) to recharge, ready for the weeks ahead.

With lighter mornings and the first signs of blossom beginning to appear, it certainly feels as though spring has sprung. The new season brings with it a sense of energy and renewal, and we are looking forward to an exciting half term filled with enriching learning opportunities, creative projects and special events.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming the children back refreshed and ready for a wonderful start to the spring term.

Warm regards,

Mrs Kinnaird

Billingsgate Seafood School Workshop

Our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils recently took part in an exciting seafood workshop delivered by Billingsgate Seafood School. During the session, expert fishmongers brought a 'box of fish' from Billingsgate Market directly into the classroom, giving pupils a unique hands-on learning experience.

The children had the opportunity to handle whole fish, explore a range of unfamiliar species and learn simple, accessible recipes that they could recreate at home. The workshop helped pupils develop a deeper understanding of the role fish plays in a healthy, balanced diet, as well as the importance of seafood sustainability.

For many pupils, it was a chance to try something new and step outside their comfort zone. It was wonderful to see their curiosity and enthusiasm as they examined the fish up close and asked thoughtful questions. Several children were surprised to discover that they enjoyed fish after tasting it, with one pupil commenting that they now knew they liked fish in fishcakes!

We would like to thank Billingsgate Seafood School for delivering such an engaging and informative experience for our pupils.

E-Safety Day 2026 – Exploring AI Safely and Responsibly

This year for **Safer Internet Day 2026**, we focused on the safe and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in primary schools. As AI tools become more common in education, it is important that children learn not only how to use them, but how to use them wisely.

Throughout the day, pupils took part in age-appropriate activities designed to help them understand what AI is, how it works, and where they might encounter it — from search engines and voice assistants to educational apps. We explored key questions such as:

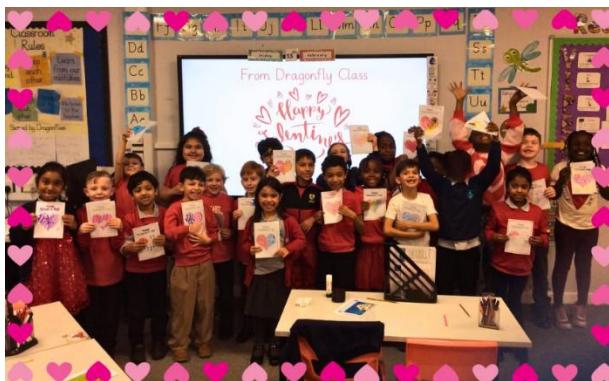
How does AI make decisions?

Can we always trust what it tells us?

What should we never share with AI tools?

Maths Week – Learning Together

It was a pleasure to welcome so many parents and carers into school for our recent Maths Parent Drop-In session. The classrooms were buzzing as parents worked side by side with their children. A key focus of our teaching is the development of strong mathematical vocabulary. Words such as partition, factor, denominator and estimate help children to think precisely and communicate their reasoning clearly. Research shows that when children can confidently use and understand mathematical language, they deepen their conceptual understanding and are better able to tackle more complex problems. Hearing and using this vocabulary at home as well as in school can make a significant difference. The drop-in session provided a wonderful opportunity for parents to see the importance of discussion in maths — not just getting the right answer, but explaining how and why. We hope the experience has given families helpful insight into our approach and practical ideas to support learning at home.



On Valentine's Day, our wonderful PTA organised a fantastic bake sale in the playground, which was a great success. The playground was filled with delicious homemade treats, including cakes, biscuits and Valentine-themed goodies, all beautifully decorated with hearts and sprinkles.

Pupils were excited to visit the stall and choose a special treat to share with friends or enjoy at home. The event created a lovely atmosphere at the end of the school day, bringing families together and spreading a little extra joy.

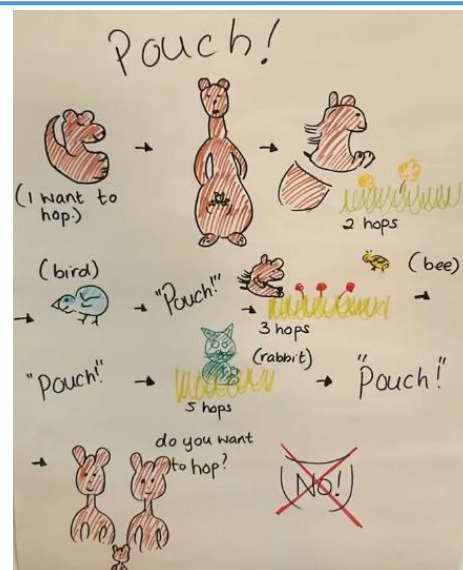
Thanks to the generosity of our school community, the bake sale raised valuable funds that will go towards supporting future school events and resources for the children. We would like to say a huge thank you to the PTA members and parent volunteers who gave their time to organise, bake and run the stall, as well as to everyone who supported the event.

National Storytelling Week 2026

We were excited to celebrate National Storytelling Week at Riverside Primary! Throughout the week, children explored the power of stories and why they are such an important part of our lives.

Each class began by discussing key questions such as: *What is a story? Why do people tell stories? What can stories teach us?* Our teachers read a focus story using expression to bring it to life, followed by thoughtful discussions about characters, settings and lessons learned.

In EYFS and KS1, children retold the story through actions and role-play, before creating colourful whole-class story maps to showcase their understanding. In KS2, pupils retold the story using detailed storyboards, including illustrations and summaries for each stage of the narrative.



Think measles!

Measles is circulating, it's very infectious and can make you very ill if you catch it.

You can catch measles at any age. If you are unvaccinated and get measles you can easily spread the illness to anyone unvaccinated. The MMR vaccine is safe and effective. You need 2 doses of MMR at least one month apart to be fully protected against measles, mumps and rubella. It's time to make measles a disease of the past. **It's never too late to be vaccinated.**

Measles symptoms include: high fever; sore, red, watery eyes; coughing; aching and feeling generally unwell; a blotchy red brown rash, which usually appears after the initial symptoms.

If you or your child have symptoms of measles, contact NHS111 or speak to your GP Practice.

For more information speak to your GP surgery, read the leaflet from the QR code or visit: www.nhs.uk/mmr

March Key Dates

- 2nd March – Barleylands trip – Geese
- 3rd March – Barleylands trip – Ducks
- 4th March – Barleylands trip – Sawn
- 5th March – World Book Day
- 6th March – National Maritime Museum – Dragonfly
- 10th March – National Maritime Museum – Waterstrider
- 10th March – Mother's Day Assembly – Geese, Trout, Swan and Carp
- 11th March – Stepney Green Farm – Lapwing
- 11th March – Mother's Day Assembly – Duck and Flounder
- 12th March – Mother's Day Assembly – Dragonfly, Waterstrider, Valley and Stream
- 13th March – Mother's Day Assembly – Eel, Newt, Lapwing Heron and Seal
- 17th March – Year 3 Class Assemblies
- 18th March – Year 2 Class Assemblies
- 20th March – All after school clubs and after school boosters finish
- 24th March – Stepney Green Farm – Heron
- 24th March – EYFS Duck Class Assembly
- 25th March – EYFS Swan Class Assembly
- 26th March – EYFS Geese Class Assembly
- 27th March – Last day of term – 1pm finish