



Head Teacher's Summer 2025 Newsletter

STEEL RIVER
ACADEMY TRUST

As we come towards the end of another successful year, I wanted to take the time to reflect on everything that the children have achieved this year and also update you ahead of next year.

Staffing Changes

In the next academic year, there are a few staffing changes that I'd like to make you aware of:

- **Mrs Gatenby:** From September, I will be reducing my working hours and will be in school from Monday to Thursday each week. Having worked at Bankfields Primary School for 20 years, I feel that now is a good time to make this small change to enable me more time to spend with my family, and ensure that I maintain a healthy work-life balance. I will continue to be the proud Head Teacher of Bankfields Primary School, and I know that our school will be in the very capable hands of our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Lee each Friday. Mrs Lee will step up to the role of Head of School on a Friday, so that she can ensure the continued smooth running of the school in my absence. There will be no changes for parents and carers who are able to arrange to come and speak with either me or Mrs Lee at any time if you have any concerns or need support.
- **Miss Thompson:** I am happy to share the wonderful news (to those of you who don't already know), that Miss Thompson is expecting her first baby in October. Miss Thompson's class will be well looked after by Mr Andrews whilst she is on maternity leave. We want to wish Miss Thompson the very best of luck with this exciting chapter of her life and we can't wait to meet her new arrival!
- **Mrs Bunn** has made the decision to enter phased retirement next year. This means that she will be reducing her working days down to 3 (Monday to Wednesday) each week. I am pleased to share that we have successfully appointed a new teacher, Mrs Whittle, who will share Mrs Bunn's class with her next year. Mrs Whittle has extensive experience as a KS1 teacher, and we are really excited to welcome her onto the Bankfields staff team. Mrs Whittle will teach the Year 2 class each Thursday and Friday.

Walking Home Policy – Reminder

In our Spring Newsletter, we updated you of the decision that from September 2025, **only children in Years 5 and 6 will be permitted to walk home alone**. All younger children must be collected from school by a parent or carer each day. This decision brings us in line with the other schools in the Steel River Academy Trust and is part of our commitment to safeguarding all of our pupils. We appreciate your cooperation and support with this change.

Bikes and Electronic Scooters – Safeguarding Reminder

For the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils, staff, and visitors, we kindly remind everyone that **bikes and electronic scooters are not allowed to be ridden on the school site**. This rule helps ensure a safe and calm environment during busy drop-off and pick-up times. Please make sure to walk bikes and scooters whilst on the school grounds. We have had to give reminders to some parents and carers and repeatedly ignoring this safety advice could lead to further action being taken as the safety of our school community is paramount. Thank you for your understanding and support in keeping our school a safe place for everyone.



PE Kit Reminder – Dress for Success!

A friendly reminder to all parents and carers: On PE days, children should come to school wearing the following:

- ♦ A plain blue or white t-shirt (or one with a Bankfields logo if you prefer).
- ♦ Black or blue shorts or jogging bottoms.
- ♦ Trainers suitable for physical activity.

Branded or brightly coloured sportswear, cropped and sleeveless tops are not permitted. If children forget their blue or white t-shirt, one will be provided from the school store. Even though the children are allowed to wear their PE kits to school on PE days, they are still representing Bankfields, so all uniform, whether it is the main school uniform or the PE kit, should be in the same colour so that everyone is equal. We also feel that this looks really smart for school too.



Key Dates for next half term:

- ♦ Wednesday 3rd September 2025 - all children return to school.
- ♦ Wednesday 15th to Friday 17th October - Robinwood Residential.
- ♦ Wednesday 22nd October - Halloween Disco after school. EYFS/KS1 4:00pm - 5:00pm. KS2 5:15pm - 6:15pm.
- ♦ Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th November - parental consultation evening.

Professional Development (PD) Days 2025/2026:

Our school will be **closed to pupils** on the following Professional Development Days in the 2025/2026 academic year:

- ♦ Monday 1st September 2025
- ♦ Tuesday 2nd September 2025
- ♦ Friday 7th November 2025
- ♦ Monday 20th July 2026
- ♦ Tuesday 21st July 2026

Please make a note of these dates in your calendars. These PD days are vital for the professional growth of our staff and to ensure we continue providing the best possible education to our pupils.

Message from the Head Teacher

As we come towards the end of another busy and successful school year, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your continued support. It has been a pleasure to watch the children grow in confidence, develop new skills, and achieve so much both in and out of the classroom. From exciting trips and creative projects to sporting successes and academic progress, it has truly been a year to celebrate. None of this would be possible without the strong partnership we share with our families, and I am incredibly grateful for your encouragement, involvement, and care. I hope that you have a wonderful summer break when it arrives.

With kind regards,

Mrs Gatenby

