

Dear Families,

Despite the recent drop in temperature, things are certainly hotting up at Riverside School as we approach the final few weeks of term. Pupils at both sites have already experienced their first Christmas event, a specially-produced performance entitled Journey of the Magi, performed by The Springs Dance Company. Pupils were mesmerised by the performance and loved the combination of dance, theatre and song. We are all looking forward to our own pupils' performances in the weeks and months to come - Primary Phases at Riverside Beckenham and Riverside SPC are continuing the Christmas theme whilst our Secondary pupils will be showing off their considerable talents in the Spring and Summer Terms.

Talking of talents, a number of our pupils performed at the Shakespeare Schools Festival at the Churchill Theatre last week and quite simply, took the audience's breath away. We received a great deal of feedback from members of the public, including: *"I would like to congratulate the young people and staff involved in last night's production of the Winter's Tale at the Churchill Theatre. What a moving and artistically wonderful performance! It was, for me, the highlight of the evening"* and *"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Riverside children and the staff involved in a such wonderful play. You all truly touched our hearts with such a display. I thought it was beautiful, heart warming and a truly emotional start to the evening."* It really was another night to be so proud of our inspirational pupils.

You may recall in the last newsletter that we referred to "Naked November", an initiative inspired by the charity World Wide Education Project, highlighting the fact that many children across the world do not have access to the resources available in the UK. Staff at Riverside have embraced the challenge of teaching a session or two "stripped bare" of resources and have been their usual creative selves in planning activities that simply rely on close relationships and high quality interactions. There have been some lovely moments of engagement through resource-free approaches such as Intensive Interaction and Sherborne Developmental Movement and two lovely recent examples include a giant game of "What's the time Mr. Wolf" and a game of "Imaginary Football" in the playground.

And finally, this will be the last newsletter in its current format. We are delighted to be launching our new website on the 1st December and are excited to also be joining the world of social media. In response to feedback from families, we will be sharing news and events with you as they happen via our Twitter and Facebook pages. Our new look website is mobile and tablet friendly and you will find links to our Facebook and Twitter pages at the bottom of each page as well as information on how to download our School News App. We hope that you will find us, like us and follow us very soon.

With very best wishes,



Steve Solomons  
Headteacher



The banner features the Riverside School logo and the slogan "Be All That You Can Be" with the website address [www.riversideschool.org.uk](http://www.riversideschool.org.uk). It includes social media icons for Facebook and Twitter, a central image of a smiling boy in a school uniform, and a "Launching 1/12/16" announcement. Below the banner are three navigation buttons: "News and Events" (with a megaphone icon and "READ MORE" link), "Performing Arts" (with a torch icon), and "Information for Families" (with an information icon).

Christmas Fair in Photos. Thank You For Your Support - £3200 Raised!



Be All That You Can Be