

Dear Families,

Welcome back to what promises to be another very exciting year ahead for everyone associated with Riverside School. We were delighted to open our doors to 30 new pupils in September and, if your child has just started with us, I hope their first month has been fun-filled, action-packed and the perfect start to their Riverside School career. It is a real pleasure to welcome you to the Riverside School community and we look forward to a long and fruitful relationship together. It is truly a privilege to be able to play a part in shaping your child's life and helping them, quite simply, Be All That They Can Be at Riverside School.

For those of you unfamiliar with The Riverside Way, I would like to share this with you as it defines what we stand for as a school.

Our core values are at the heart of everything we do:

Aspiration Resilience Creativity Humility Integrity Trust Enthusiasm Courage Teamwork

They make up the acronym ARCHITECT to signify our passion for designing and building a school that will make an indelible mark on the world for generations to come; a school that will impact positively on everyone who enters, on people we may never meet, and in ways we may never know.

We see our pupils' time at Riverside School as just the first part of their journey and we want them to leave us at the age of 19 as confident, lifelong learners. We also want them to remember their time with us with great affection, with memories of life-enriching experiences and enduring relationships.

Our core purpose, our mission, is to transform our children's lives and the lives of their families and our vision is to inspire breakthroughs in the way society enables children with complex needs to find true fulfilment.

Our mission and vision are underpinned by four pledges:

- We will equip our pupils with a bespoke package of profoundly personalised support so that when they leave school, they succeed, flourish and leave their mark on society.
- We will inspire our pupils, families and the wider community to make the seemingly unachievable achievable through the Performing Arts.
- We will ensure current and future pupils make remarkable progress by attracting and training the highest calibre special educators at Riverside School and beyond.
- We will influence the world of specialist education by creating an innovative curriculum framework based around The Pursuit of Happiness.

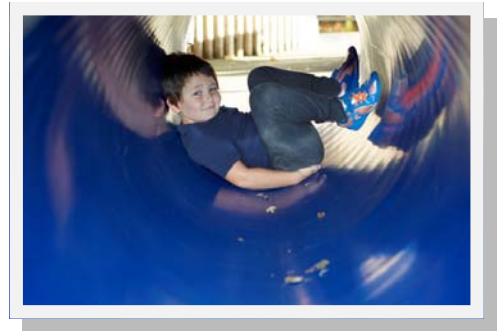
To support our four pledges, we have a number of exciting initiatives planned. Many of these are linked to your feedback from the Family Survey in July and we look forward to sharing these with you in the months to come. We will be launching our new website in a matter of weeks and this will be just one of many ways to keep you informed about new developments and showcase what our pupils, your children, can achieve.

Here's to a very bright and happy new year!

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Solomons".

Steve Solomons
Headteacher





Class News



So far this term, we have been very busy working hard on our topics as well as many other exciting learning opportunities. Here's what we have been up to in our classes:

This term, our topic in **Elephants** class is 'All About Me' and we have already been really enjoying this. We have been learning all about ourselves - we've learnt about our bodies, our families and our pets. WOW! We have loved doing this. One of the best things we've done so far is drawing around our bodies and looking at how different we are!

Challenger class have had a great start to the new school year learning through our new exciting topic 'Time of Our Lives'. We have been exploring lots of our personal motivating items and have taken part in a 'friendship carousel' whereby we can interact 1:1 with a peer playing our favourite games!

Leopards class have been working very hard this term learning all about themselves and their friends! We have been exploring faces and trying to name the features on our face. We have done this in lots of different ways using sensory circle time, singing and drawing. We even made puzzles of our own faces!



The start of this year has been a fun filled and exciting one for **Ladybirds** Class. We have been focusing on our story 'Elmer the Elephant'. We have learnt all about the different animals who are Elmer's friends, what they look like and what noises they make. We have used this to focus on subtraction in Maths by counting when Elmer's friends go home to have their dinner. In Science, we have been learning about animals and their habitats and which animals live in hot places and which animals live in cold places.

This term in **Discovery** Class we have been learning about the 'Time of our Lives'. We have been enjoying learning about our bodies and creating a tactile skeleton as well as creating our own music. We have also been creating artistic masterpieces of our favourite things to name but a few. We can't wait to see what the rest of this half term will bring us!

In **Fireflies** class we have really enjoyed starting our days with a massage and relaxation session where we have been learning 'All About Me' and choosing where we would like a massage. A back massage and tickle is the most popular amongst all the Fireflies.

Millipedes have loved using tissue paper, glitter and other left over textured trimmings to sprinkle onto sticky back plastic to create these beautiful Elmer collages. Simply find some old scrap materials e.g. coloured sand, feathers, sequins etc. (the more colourful the better!) and sprinkle from a height onto the sticky side of some sticky back plastic that has been secured to the table and



enjoy watching it float down. Once you have finished your sprinkling fun, fold the sticky back plastic over so all the lovely bits you have sprinkled are encased inside and then cut into any shape you like!

Parade class have been busy getting to know all of our new peers. One of our favourite activities has been investigating the poem 'All About Me'. We have acted it out, shared it with friends and have written our own versions.

Pupils in **Apollo** have had a fantastic start to this new and exciting academic year! This half term the pupils are getting to know each other and the Apollo staff and there are already some new friendships forming which is very encouraging! Some pupils have taken part in a shopping trip, others participated in their first horse riding lesson. All pupils have worked very hard in our cooking session learning to make a sandwich and loved creating their hand prints using salt dough. We are all looking forward to our first class trip out before the end of this half term.

In **Bumblebees** we have been enjoying the topic "All About Me". We have done lots of fun activities and the real focus has been on getting to know our new friends and staff. From passing round the giant hat, to getting under the parachute and choosing which



of our friends get the biggest tickle! All our hard work is paying off and lots of people have said how well we have all settled into our new routine. We are looking forward to continuing swimming this half term, cooking next half term and our first trip out of many.





Class News



Continued from Page 2

Jamboree have had a great start to the new term and have been really busy! We are especially enjoying our 'Sound Immersion' and dance sessions with the Performing Arts team where we have been exploring different sounds, instruments and sensory activities. We are also enjoying our new topic, 'Time of Our Lives', and have had lots of fun doing a show and tell and a 'friendship carousel'. We are having lots of fun getting to know each other and can't wait for all the other exciting things we have planned.

Caterpillars have settled in very well and are learning the new routines and structure of the day. Caterpillars have begun this academic year learning about the animals and colours in the Elmer story, they have particularly enjoyed splatting different coloured paints and have all done a wonderful job decorating our large Elmer for our class display. We are also enjoying our fabulous Performing Arts sessions each week, which are run by two performing arts specialists Chantal and Gareth. The Caterpillars team are really looking forward to the year ahead with lots of exciting things to come.

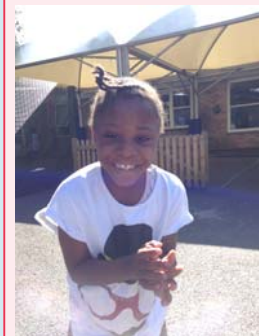
In **Butterflies** Class we've been experimenting with mixing colours by laying out skittles in a circle on a paper plate and pouring warm water over them. Everyone was very excited to see the colours come together to make a rainbow effect, just like the skin of Elmer the Elephant.

In **Koalas** class we have settled back into school very well. Our theme so far has been "All About Me." We have had fun getting to know each other and we really enjoyed creating a special box of treats to share with our families! We have enjoyed preparing our vegetable patch during our gardening sessions and we are looking forward to growing some vegetables very soon. Over the next few weeks we will be learning about our pets, our friends, how to look after ourselves and Halloween. We are looking forward to all the fun activities we will be doing over the next few weeks!



Tigers have had a fantastic start to the year learning all about ourselves! We have been sharing photos of our families and playing games together with all our favourite toys. We have also been learning about different pets and how we look after them. Tigers even made their own sensory fish bowl with gel, different colour foam fishes, seaweed and sequins!

The **Zebras** have been really busy these past few weeks. We have some new pupils to the school in Zebras class so our first story was learning all about Riverside School and we have visited all our



favourite places. We have also been learning about



ourselves, looking at our reflections and making faces using different media such as a flour, foam and play dough. Recently, as we have got to know one another, we have been exploring our favourite things. The Zebras love music so we have been singing loudly and practising our dance moves ready for Harvest Festival!

Recently pupils from **Atlantis** and **Enterprise** Class were visited by some very special guests who delivered a seminar and workshop to the group in the Training Room. Pupils said they felt really important and grown up to be involved. Representatives from the WE Charity joined us to talk about how we can be 'superheroes' and make a change within our school and the local community. Pupils discussed things that they enjoyed doing and how they could help others. All the pupils made their own pledge about how they would help others. Pupils will be continuing work on this throughout the year which will be tied into their exciting Skills for Life Curriculum.



Here is some information on the charity:
"The WE Charity is an international charity and educational partner. In Canada, the US, and the UK, WE Day and WE Schools are initiatives of WE Charity that educate and empower young people. WE Schools is a yearlong educational program that nurtures compassion in students and gives them the tools to create transformative social change. And WE Day is a series of stadium-sized events that celebrate youth making a difference in their local and global communities".

To find out more visit: <https://www.we.org/>

Have you signed up to our online payments system?



If you haven't already, we would encourage you to sign up and use our online payments system SIMS Agora to pay for school meals and other school activities. SIMS Agora is very easy-to-use and will offer you the flexibility to make online payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week safe in the knowledge that payments are secure and use the highest level of card security and that funds will reach the school safely. It will also significantly reduce the amount of administration time in school.

For further information, please contact the school office.

Voluntary Contributions

As you may know, Riverside School is funded by the Local Authority but the budget does not cover many extras in class or school trips, so we ask for voluntary contributions to our School Fund to enable us to provide these. Voluntary contributions will enable us to continue providing your child with snacks, cooking lessons, additional equipment, local excursions, internal workshops, themed days and anything else not covered by our school budget. We will be writing separately to ask if you could make a contribution for this academic year of £50 to help us to continue to provide these valuable experiences. Further details and information on how to pay will be circulated next week. Please do register for our online payments system if you haven't already done so.

Thank you in advance for your support.



Horticulture Awards

We are delighted to announce that Riverside has been awarded the London Children's Flower Society Gold Award for the Cultivation of a School Garden and the Silver Medal Award for Growing Summer Flowers, Herbs and Vegetables.



Thank you

We are delighted that our Rotary Global Grant application has been successful and we have now received a generous donation. This has funded a new minibus, an eye gaze system, a sensory trolley and some specialist music resources. We are very grateful for all the support from our friends at the Rotary Club and look forward to sharing the achievements of our pupils using these exciting new resources. Our thanks go to Rotary Clubs Orpington, Wuppertal and other local groups.

RPSFA

The Riverside Parents, Staff and Friends Association (RPSFA) will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 18th October at 4:30 pm. We would be pleased to welcome you at this meeting at Riverside St Paul's Cray. We will be planning our Annual Christmas Fair which will be held on Saturday, 26th November from 12 noon to 2pm. Please make a note in your diary. Further details to follow.

Fundraising Walk for Teenage Cancer Trust:

In September, three of our Teaching Assistants; Emily Turner, Sophie Turner and Amy Parker, walked 25KM across London and raised **£1200** for the Teenage Cancer Trust. Well done girls!



We Got Muddy!

A Riverside Staff Team came together to raise funds for Cancer Research by taking part in the 'Pretty Muddy' Race for Life on 11th September.

The team raised over **£3350**. Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to those who supported this worthy cause.





Thank you to families who joined us at Riverside Connect this week.

Our next event is on 20th October and further details of the topic will be circulated nearer the time.

For more information about Riverside Connect events, and photos of past events, please visit the Working Together section/Engagement with Families page of our website www.riversideschool.org.uk




Further details for any specific events will follow

- 11/10/16 Primary (SPC) Harvest Festival
- 20/10/16 Riverside Connect
- 20/10/16 Beckenham Harvest Festival
- 10/11/16 Riverside Connect
- 26/11/16 Christmas Fair
- 08/12/16 Beckenham, Christmas Show
- 08/12/16 Riverside Connect
- 15/12/16 Primary (SPC) Christmas Show
- 19/12/16 Beckenham Carol Concert
- 20/12/16 SPC Carol Concert
- 21/12/16 Last Day of Autumn Term

Website Launch Coming Soon! More details to follow next month.

 **FIND US ON FACEBOOK** →

 **FOLLOW US ON TWITTER** →

Summer Wedding Congratulations to:

Katie and Jonny Kirkness



Charlotte and Richard Downs



Clare and Matt Marseglia



Save The Date!

We are delighted to announce that our first Riverside Glitter Ball is being planned for:

Saturday, 8th July 2017.

Sincere thanks to our willing organisers.



Be All That You Can Be