

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025

Dear Families,

Today marks the end of what has been another wonderfully busy year at Riverside School. We hope that your child has enjoyed their year and made progress in the areas that really make a difference to their lives and the lives of your family. We hope they have strengthened existing relationships and formed new connections. We always try to ensure that their days are filled with magic and mystery, encouraging them to be curious about the world around them, however near or far that may be. We also want them to feel seen, wherever they are, and heard, however loud or quiet their voice may be.

There have been so many highlights over the past year and, as a school, we never underestimate the importance of celebrating the small steps. The things that have real significance and importance for your child and yourselves. Some of these will have been captured in your child's Unique Profiles; some of them may have been planned and some unplanned. Either way, they matter. They really matter. They remind us of each and every child's uniqueness, their resilience, courage and creativity. Their spark and their spirit.

In addition to the multitude of individual successes, we are proud of our wider school achievements this year, from being re-accredited with the Wellbeing Award for Schools; achieving the Artsmark Triple Platinum Award and being reaffirmed by Ofsted following our previous grading of outstanding in all areas. We are never complacent though and are always keen to develop and improve our practice further. Your feedback through both formal and informal mechanisms this year has led to changes in home-communication systems (we will be rolling out the App piloted at Riverside Phoenix across all sites in the coming months) and annual reviews (through working closely with colleagues in the Local Authority to streamline the review process).

We have also revamped our curriculum offer across all sites, phases and pathways and our work in the Expressive Arts continues to build momentum. Over the past year, we have presented at a range of conferences, strengthened our partnerships with high-profile Arts organisations (such as the Arts Council and the Royal Ballet and Opera House) and in addition to the Primary Immersive shows in the Autumn Term, we followed these with "Dare to Dream" Showcase and Immersive shows in the Spring and Summer Terms. We ended the year with two other events that are now fully embedded in the Riverside calendar. It was with real pride that we screened the beautiful Family Project: Elements earlier this month [WATCH HERE](#) and we finished the year with another annual highlight: Riverfest, which you can [WATCH HERE](#).

Later today, we will be saying goodbye to 17 pupils as they end their time at Riverside School and embark on the next stage of their journey. We know that this can be an emotional time for everyone involved and, as we wave goodbye, our message to them, and to you, is simple – we hope we have served you well. Please do stay in touch – you will always be part of the Riverside family and we would love to hear how you are getting on in the coming months.

It just remains for me to remind you that pupils' first day back after the summer break is Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September for what promises to be another action-packed, fun-filled year. As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher on our return if there are any changes that you would like to tell us about or if you need any further support.

In the meantime, wishing you all a happy and healthy summer as we look forward to the new term already!

With very best wishes,



Steve Solomons  
Headteacher

