

21st May 2021

Dear Families,

I hope that you and your loved ones are all well.

We are now a week into Stage 3 of our Riverside Roadmap and whilst our approach remains one of measured caution, the changes we have made this week have been very well-received by our pupils. These have included increasing opportunities for all pupils to spend time with friends from other classes in the playground and it has been wonderful to see the re-kindling of some old friendships. We have also been able to increase access to spaces such as the sensory rooms and soft play, with control measures in place to ensure they remain as safe as possible for everyone. For the first time in over a year, we have also started to re-introduce some local community experiences, with small numbers of pupils enjoying local walks to develop their road safety skills; shopping in a supermarket; going on a tram ride and even a visiting a café or two!

As promised in previous letters, we will continue to update you on a weekly basis should any of our pupils or staff receive a positive COVID-19 test result across the school and we will of course inform you immediately if your child is directly affected. I am pleased to report that we have had **no positive cases** at Riverside School this week.

Last week's letter included the launch of our Family Project: "On Top of the World". We have been delighted by the number of responses we have had so far. If you have not yet had the opportunity to respond to the invitation, the final date is next Monday 24th May. We would love as many families as possible to take part so please return the reply slip by next Monday and we will be in touch with further details soon afterwards.

You will also be aware that next Friday 28th May is a Staff Training Day and the school will therefore be closed to all pupils on that day. All schools are allocated five Training Days per academic year and this is our final one of 2020/21. The theme of the day is Inclusion and ties in with one of our School Development Plan priorities, namely to "further strengthen a truly inclusive environment, in which the whole school community feel welcomed, valued and confident to bring their whole selves to the school". It will be a culmination of the work already undertaken over the past year, inspired by events that took place in Minneapolis on 25th May 2020 and we look forward to sharing the outcomes from our conference day with you later on this term.

Have a lovely weekend and with very best wishes,



Steve Solomons
Headteacher