

30th April 2021

Dear Families,

I hope that you are all well and continuing to find plenty of moments of sunshine, light and joy as we enter the month of May. 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 for the sixth week running, we have had **no positive cases** at Riverside School.

We have had another really good week on all three sites, with a particular highlight being International Dance Day yesterday. We look forward to sharing our highlights film with you at the beginning of next week. You will know that the Expressive Arts have been a huge part of our curriculum for a number of years and many of your children will have had the opportunity to perform in a range of different ways. We opened our Performing Arts Hall at Riverside SPC seven years ago and there are now over 40 videos on our website. From Family Projects to Christmas Shows, staff pantos to West End productions, and one of the highlights, our performance to a star-studded audience, including the Duke and Duchess of Sussex at the Wellchild Awards in 2018. To see our children and families' talents in a range of really powerful pieces, please see <https://www.riversideschool.org.uk/page/?title=Video+Galleries&pid=16>. The very first clip dates back to 2014 when we were asked to open a National Conference on Aspiration and Achievement for children with additional needs and the final words in that show reel are just as relevant now as they were then. So, for that reason, I would like to share them with you again now:

"There is a place down deep that all of us seek. It is difficult to describe, but it is there that life takes on radiance and soul-touching beauty. In these moments, life is all-consuming and unbearably good. It is a place where time means nothing and our minds are truly open. To get there, we must be in a state of comfort and joy, doing what we love in a place we love. At Riverside School, finding our element allows us to understand who we are and what we are capable of being. At Riverside School, dancing enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time. At Riverside School, dancing allows us to Be All That We Can Be".

For families whose children joined us after the start of the pandemic in March 2020, you will not yet have had the opportunity to see your child perform in person, however International Dance Day has coincided with our gradual "opening up" across the school, and we are already looking forward to, and planning for, a number of exciting Expressive Arts opportunities in the months to come. In the meantime, I would like to end with a quote that really sums up what we believe in: "Dancing with the feet is one thing. Dancing with the heart is another" and whether or not your Bank Holiday involves dancing in any shape or form, I hope you have a really good one.

With very best wishes,

Steve Solomons
Headteacher