

19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Riverside families,

I hope that you are all well.

Today marks the final day of term and what a busy term it has been! There have been loads of individual highlights and we feel so lucky to have shared so many significant moments together with your child. From saying their first word, taking their first step; eating their first vegetable, reading their first word, attending their first show, or completing their first work experience, we know how much these things and so many more, really do matter.

At a whole school level, it was a joy to welcome many new pupils and families to all four sites in September and, for those of you who have just finished your first term with us, we hope that we have served you and your child well. We hope they have found the transition a successful one and as always, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or a member of the Leadership Team should you require any additional support.

Our commitment to curriculum innovation is as strong as ever and through our new curriculum pathways, we are always looking for opportunities to try new things. We are particularly proud of our new music and movement programme for children and young people in our Blue Sensory Pathway and for more information please see [HERE](#). And once you have seen it, we are sure you will want to Join the Rhythmerside Revolution!

In addition to all the usual activities and events planned to give your child a voice, build their confidence, extend their friendships, develop their self-regulation and widen their worlds, we ended the term with a few seasonal favourites. Throughout December, every Primary-aged pupil had the opportunity to travel Up, Up and Away, our latest Immersive Experience and if you were able to share this experience with your child, I hope you enjoyed it. We have pleasure in sharing the film [HERE](#). For our Secondary-aged pupils, showtime will soon come around and we have some exciting plans to share with you in the Spring Term.

We are also delighted to share the news that at the recent Bromley SEND Stars Event, Riverside pupils picked up the "Proudest Moment Award"; the "Dragon's Den Award" for our pioneering Enterprise work and an award for "Champions for Change Brand Design". Two members of staff were also nominated in the categories "SEND Champion for Employment" and "SEND Champion for Inclusion". To top it all, it is with real pride that we can share that we, Riverside School, were presented with the Judges' Award for Outstanding Contribution, a "special award for an individual or organisation who have provided continuous support, encouragement and services to children, young people, families and partner organisations working in Bromley". The nomination reads:

*"The judges were unanimous in their decision to present this special award to Riverside School, recognising it as a shining example of inclusive practice - both within the school gates and throughout the wider community. Originally nominated for the Lasting Legacy Award, Riverside received multiple nominations*

*across various categories. After careful consideration, the judges agreed that this bespoke award best reflects the school's exceptional and far-reaching impact. They also wish to acknowledge the dedication of all nominated staff and the heartfelt contributions of those who submitted nominations.*

*Riverside School embodies a spirit of community that is outward-looking, enabling, and inclusive. This ethos extends beyond the pupils to embrace siblings, families, staff, and community partners. As one parent expressed in their nomination: "The staff at Riverside consistently work with each child and their family to ensure individual needs are met and potential is realised. They do this through detailed, personalised curriculums and development plans, with ongoing family involvement. They welcome every child, no matter how challenging, and immediately begin working their Riverside magic to support them. It is a loving, home-from-home environment where staff make a lasting, deeply positive difference to the lives of children and their families".*

*Riverside's approach ensures that every young person receives the best possible opportunities. From nursery through to age 19, students benefit from a wide range of experiences that extend beyond the classroom and prepare them for adulthood. One such initiative - the Riverside Lounge - offers a glimpse into the school's commitment to real-world learning and community engagement. This award celebrates Riverside School's unwavering dedication to inclusion, innovation, and lifelong impact".*

This was a wonderful accolade to receive and we are, of course, extremely proud. However, we are never complacent and are always keen to develop our practice further. When we talk about lifelong learning, this applies to each and every one of us and we will continue to strive for excellence in everything we do. That's because, quite simply, our pupils, your children, deserve nothing less. As we move into 2026, our commitment remains to be at the cutting edge of specialist education, so that your child succeeds, flourishes and leaves their mark on the world.

We ended the term with an understandably festive focus, with much talk about celebrations and family gatherings. We also feel it is important to recognise that this time of year can be challenging and understand that Christmas means different things to different people. It can bring a range of different emotions, for a range of different reasons. Whatever the next fortnight brings for you, I hope it includes moments of magic, connection and affection, in all manner of ways.

To end today's letter, we are delighted to share this year's staff Makaton Sing and Sign: ["The Twelve Days of Christmas"](#) and we hope you enjoy it. Once it's in your head, it's hard to shake!

There are so many things to look forward to in 2026 and beyond but in the meantime, wishing you all a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and we look forward to seeing your child again on 5<sup>th</sup> January.

With very best wishes,



Steve Solomons  
Headteacher