

24th June 2022

Dear Families,

I hope that you are all well.

As we move towards the end of term, we are in the process of finalising our class arrangements for September and, in today's letter, I thought it may be useful to share our approach with you. With the opening of our fourth site, we are expecting our total pupil population to increase from 319 pupils over three sites to approximately 335 pupils over four sites. Our numbers have risen year on year but, despite our growth, we have always tried to maintain our close-knit community and family feel. Regardless of which site your child is on, we really hope that you feel the staff who spend every day with them really know them – their special interests, unique talents and all the things that make them the very wonderful children and young people they are.

When we put our classes together, we consider a number of different factors and these include your child's age (we do not stick to single year groups); communication levels (matching children whose expressive and/or receptive language levels are similar) and sensory needs (as we know that every child requires a different level of sensory input at different points of the day). We also look at friendship groups and dynamics between specific pupils and with the benefits of having multiple sites, we have the flexibility to place children where we feel they will be well-suited in terms of the physical environment. Our sites differ as far as internal and external spaces and facilities are concerned, as we know that some children enjoy and benefit from lots of outdoor space whilst others prefer a quieter or smaller space. Sometimes we keep classes (pupils and staff) together and sometimes we make changes and please be assured that all our decisions are taken with each and every one of our pupils in mind.

As outlined in last week's letter, our Parents' Evenings are taking place on Tuesday 5th July at Beckenham and West Wickham; Wednesday 6th July at Riverside SPC (Primary) and Riverside Phoenix and Wednesday 13th July at Riverside SPC (Secondary). Your child's new class teacher will be in touch with you next week to arrange an appointment time. These meetings are always a really good opportunity to meet your child's class team for September, when we will continue to do our very best to enable them to Be All That They Can Be.

Have a lovely weekend and with very best wishes,

Steve Solomons
Headteacher