

4th February 2022

Dear Families,

I hope that you and your families are all well.

We have had another eventful week here at Riverside School. We celebrated Chinese New Year on all three sites and we are in the process of planning a range of activities to mark Children's Mental Health Week next week. This year's theme is Growing Together and this is particularly apt for us at Riverside School. Whether we interpret "growth" as getting bigger (which we are, now fully established on three sites with 322 of the most amazing children in the world), or in terms of emotional growth, one thing is clear, we will continue to grow *together*.

In line with our commitment to communicate frequently and openly with you about all COVID-related matters, I can confirm that we have had 34 positive COVID cases this week. Of this week's cases, 12 have been staff and 22 have been pupils (18 at SPC; 8 at Beckenham and 8 at West Wickham). Three classes had more than one positive case and thank you once again for your understanding and support for everything we are doing to manage the current situation. We remain fully committed to providing your children with as much consistency as possible, despite the challenges and as I wrote in last week's letter, they have managed any changes to their usual routines so well. We are so proud of the way they have adapted.

We were pleased to partner once again with colleagues from Oakfield Surgery to offer booster vaccinations for pupils aged 12+ with parental consent yesterday and further information about the proposed 5-11 vaccination programme will follow soon.

I would like to say another huge thank you to all of you who have sent in items of pre-loved school uniform to support our wider school community. We are in the process of re-homing uniform and I am also pleased to say that as a result of a partnership with BTSE, Orpington Baptist Church and Home-Start Bromley, we are in a position to add a selection of new children's shoes to our offer. If you would like to request either pre-loved uniform or new shoes, please complete the form [HERE](#) to enquire about availability. All requests will, of course, be handled sensitively.

To finish, I just wanted to reiterate our commitment to providing your children with as happy and joyful a school experience as possible, with our focus on *learning* as important as ever. Despite the continuing challenges, together we will keep going strong.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Steve Solomons
Headteacher