

04/8/2020

Information for parents regarding Children's Therapies and Nursing at Riverside School for September 2020

Dear Parents

As you will be aware the current COVID19 pandemic has impacted on all health services and we have been working in different ways to ensure that safety of children, families and staff. We are also aware of the impact the current situation has had and is having on children and families and we want to work together to try and ensure we are offering safe and effective support. As school return in September there will be some changes in how services provide intervention within Riverside school to ensure we work as safely and effectively as possible

Ensuring children and staff safety is imperative and Bromley Healthcare (BHC) staff will continue to adhere to Public Health England (PHE) guidance regarding infection control, wearing of Personal Protective Equipment and social distancing (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>).

School nursing have continued to provide interventions for children throughout the pandemic. There have been detailed discussions between nursing and senior management at Riverside to agree safe ways of working to ensure children have their needs met. There will be a nurse and healthcare assistant in school each day and additional staffing at lunchtime.

Children's Speech and Language, Occupational and Physiotherapy will continue to offer support in the safest way possible. Clinicians will be going into school to carry out direct interventions and will prioritise any urgent concerns. However, they will also continue to offer support remotely where appropriate, such as a telephone or video reviews and will liaise with you and the school regarding this.

Hydrotherapy is not currently being offered at Riverside (or at the Phoenix Centre) and the pool is currently not being used. Once Bromley Healthcare have been advised that it is safe to offer this intervention a risk assessment will be completed prior to sessions resuming. For children open to Physiotherapy, the therapist will continue to advise on alternative interventions or activities to support children.

We are aware that for a small number of children there may need to be more detailed discussion regarding how to provide the therapy support specified on the

child's EHCP, for example due to the impact of wearing PPE. For BHC Occupational and Physiotherapy this relates to Health (section G) and for Speech and Language Therapy this relates to Health (section G) and SEN (section F). Where this is the case there will be a discussion with school and parents and further advice will be sought if required.

There are also a number of changes to the BHC therapists supporting children at Riverside:

Speech and Language Therapy	Beckenham site: Jackie Sutherland and Katie Cassidy St Pauls Cray site: Karen Probetts, Sophie Sam and Katie Cassidy West Wickham site: Caroline Duguid
Physiotherapy	Kristine Ayling (Riverside Physiotherapy Lead) Helen Bloom (Physiotherapist) interim support Natasha Ricketts (Therapy assistant)
Occupational Therapy	Jennifer Brookland Aisling Kiernan Annita Wahab will also be offered additional support as required

This has been agreed jointly between BHC, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and London Borough of Bromley and will be updated and revised in relation to changes in national guidance and local context.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Heather Scott (Head of Children's Therapy) or Cait Lewis (Clinical Lead for Children's Community Nursing Team) on 0300 330 5777.

Yours sincerely



Heather Scott
Head of Children's Therapy