

4<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Families,

I hope that you are all well.

This week has been one of mixed emotions, as we welcome the start of Spring, the season of flowers blooming, animals awakening and new beginnings, whilst reflecting on the terrible events that are taking place in different parts of the world. As a school, we have tried to play our part in supporting Unicef Ukraine in their efforts to provide an emergency response to children affected by the conflict and through the generosity of the Riverside School community, we are pleased to have raised more than £1,200 this week alone. Thank you to everyone who has sent in donations and contributed to our cake sales on all three sites. This is not the end of our efforts and we will continue to find ways to donate to Unicef Ukraine in the weeks ahead.

In other Riverside news, you will be aware that since the start of this week, we have been in a position to ease a number of previous restrictions and I am delighted to say that these changes have been well-received across the school. The removal of face coverings has aided closer communication in all communal areas and it has been wonderful to see moments of connection and reconnection between children who are now able to mix more freely than previously. We are also now in a position to extend our curriculum and community opportunities and I hope you will have seen our World Book Day gallery link [HERE](#). These photos show, amongst many other things, what school is all about.

As promised, we will continue to keep you fully informed of COVID cases on a weekly basis and I am pleased to say that with just one positive case this week, this is the lowest number at Riverside School since the beginning of November. We very much hope that this will be the continuing trend in the coming weeks, however, we are never complacent and remain on guard to respond to any changing circumstances should this be necessary.

In last week's letter, I wrote that we are working closely with colleagues from Oakfield Surgery to offer vaccinations at Riverside School for all pupils aged 5-11, whose families provide consent. These are scheduled to take place on all three sites before Easter and if you would like to pre-register your consent and have yet to do so, please [CLICK HERE](#) by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March. Once you have done this, the NHS Vaccination Team from Oakfield Surgery will contact you to discuss the details of the vaccination and in the meantime, please feel free to call Oakfield Surgery on 020 8776 6514 if you have any questions.

So, at a time when there is continuing uncertainty, conflict and pain in countries across the world, here's to a future in which "light will win over darkness".

With very best wishes,

Steve Solomons  
Headteacher