

6th October 2022

Dear Families,

I am writing to give you an update about our hydrotherapy pool and splash pool at Riverside SPC. Whilst relatively few children have hydrotherapy quantified within their Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), we know how many of our children enjoy and benefit from using the pools as part of their curriculum. For families whose children have used the pools for a number of years, you will know that access had to be reduced during the pandemic but, since that time, we regret that we have not been able to offer the same level of access as we were able to pre-pandemic.

It is really important that you know that we have done (and continue to do) everything we can to get the pools up and running. You may be aware that the main hydrotherapy pool was built many decades ago and we added the smaller splash pool to accommodate more pupils as the school expanded in recent years.

Unfortunately, we have faced a large number of challenges with the pools in recent months, including significant water loss; problems with the pool temperature and the surrounding atmospheric temperature; and various unit and valve malfunctions. Sometimes, we have been able to rectify the issues quickly and, at other times, there have been challenges in sourcing and receiving replacement parts in a timely fashion. On other occasions, we have had to seek further specialist advice due to the complex nature of the pools. To date, we have used a number of specialist pool companies, heating engineers and other associated trades to try and get the pools back up and running and we have invested significant amounts of time and money to do this. There are, of course continuing financial considerations and we have been proactive in making connections with a number of companies to support us financially as we look to the future. We are also exploring whether there are other options available to us in the meantime.

I would love to be able to write again to you next week with positive news but as it stands, we felt it was appropriate to provide you with a comprehensive update of the current situation and to assure you that we really are trying everything we can to get our pools back open on a consistent and regular basis. We know that this is a frustrating situation for everyone concerned and we thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to do whatever we can to reach a positive outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Solomons
Headteacher