

22nd May 2026

Dear Riverside families,

I hope you are all well.

As we look back over the first half of the Summer Term, there are so many things to celebrate and, as we enter the final half-term, there are so many things to look forward to. No two days are ever the same and it is that sense of excitement and mystery that makes us all jump out of bed in the mornings, excited for what the day will bring. Whilst we are busy making plans for September, we never lose sight of the here and now and the things that we know really matter. The relationships, the connections, the moments.

If you have a Secondary-aged child in our Blue Sensory or Blue Active Pathways, I hope you were able to share the recent "Journeys" immersive experience with them. We are really proud of our innovative work within immersive theatre and it is with real pleasure that we share the film with you [HERE](#). And now that you may have had a creative spark reignited, we are delighted to be launching this year's Family Project, "Threads Between Us". Please see the flyer sent out earlier this week for more details.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that over the next few months, we will be reviewing, refining and refreshing our School Development Plan and, whilst this may not sound particularly exciting, I can promise you that it really is!

Back in 2021, we created:

Building a Brighter Future – The Riverside Way

At Riverside School, our core values guide everything we do. *Aspiration Resilience Creativity Humility Integrity Trust Enthusiasm Courage Teamwork.*

They make up the acronym **ARCHITECT** to signify our passion for designing and building a school that will make an indelible mark on the world for generations to come; a school that will impact positively on everyone who enters, on people we may never meet, and in ways we may never know.

We will continue our relentless drive for excellence, because our pupils and their families deserve nothing less. We will improve outcomes at an individual, school and societal level and we will judge our success on the extent to which we transform lives, both within, and outside Riverside School.

At Riverside School, we always start with **WHY**: Why do we do what we do?

1. To transform our children's lives and the lives of their families (**Our Mission**)
2. To inspire breakthroughs in the way society enables children with complex needs to find true fulfilment (**Our Vision**)
3. To give our pupils every opportunity to Be All That You Can Be (**Our Motto**)

We follow this with **HOW**: How do we do what we do?

1. In full accordance with our **Values**
2. In an **Ethical and Sustainable** way
3. In a way that everyone in our school community feels a true sense of **Belonging**

We follow this with **WHAT**: What do we do?

1. At **School**
2. At **Home**
3. In the **Community**

We have made **10 pledges** and committed to **100 actions** over the next 4 years (January 2022 - April 2026) and each one will reinforce our moral and cultural identity (our **HOW**), whilst taking us a step closer to realising our mission, vision and motto (our **WHY**). Our School Development Plan will build on the challenges and opportunities presented during the COVID era and will capture hearts, minds, soul and spirit. It is a plan fuelled by hope, optimism and ambition for what lies ahead.

That's *Building a Brighter Future – The Riverside Way*. Welcome aboard.

Once we had identified our "why", our "how" and our "what", we made 10 pledges:

Our 10 Pledges

Pledge 1	We will equip our pupils with a profoundly personalised curriculum framework so that they succeed, flourish and leave their mark on the world.
Pledge 2	We will improve the emotional wellbeing of our pupils and their families by placing The Pursuit of Happiness at the heart of our multi-agency work.
Pledge 3	We will ensure current and future pupils make remarkable progress by attracting and developing the highest calibre special educators at Riverside School and beyond.
Pledge 4	We will shift mindsets, shape policy and change practice to secure system-wide school improvement at a local, national and international level.
Pledge 5	We will ensure that families have their lived experiences acknowledged and their voices heard in order to bring about positive change for themselves, their children and other families.
Pledge 6	We will improve community access, inclusion and participation for our pupils and their families and create a ripple in communities up and down the country,
Pledge 7	We will make the seemingly unachievable achievable by engaging, energising and mobilising our whole school community to Build a Brighter Future - The Riverside Way.
Pledge 8	We will consciously, deliberately and systematically ensure that our school and the local community is a more sustainable and greener place.
Pledge 9	We will campaign tirelessly with, and for our pupils and their families to amplify the voices of disadvantaged and marginalised communities and create a society which is more equal, just and fair.
Pledge 10	We will promote inclusion and celebrate diversity in all its forms to ensure that everyone in our school community feels a true sense of belonging.

We then committed to 100 actions that we felt would take us closer to our mission and vision and we have been working on these over the past four years. We are never complacent though and there is always work to be done. We never stand still and always want to improve because, quite simply, you and your wonderful children deserve nothing less.

So, with that in mind, and as we write our new School Development Plan to take us up to 2030, it is really important that we hear from *you*, our families, to understand what you would like us to focus our efforts on to support you and your child. In other words, what are the things that would make a real difference to your lives? Your feedback could be directly school-related, home-related or community-related and please simply [click on this link](#) to do so. We will use your feedback to shape our work over the next four years and thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts (by 12th June please).

Wishing you a happy and healthy half-term and we look forward to seeing your child on Tuesday 2nd June.

With very best wishes,



Steve Solomons
 Headteacher