

12th November 2021

Dear Families,

I hope that you are all well.

We have had another good week at Riverside School and we continue to remain upbeat and optimistic about the weeks ahead. Whenever there are minor bumps in the road that are out of our control, such as a recent minibus theft or current enforced pool closure, we always endeavour to get things back on track as soon as we possibly can and we appreciate your understanding at these times.

We are really looking forward to a number of phase-specific and site-specific events planned in the run up to Christmas, and you will have received flyers for the events listed in last week's letter (please note that these are all planned to be in-person, but are subject to change should this be necessary).

As you will be aware, our commitment has always been to communicate frequently and openly with you about all COVID-related matters, including letting you know about any positive cases at school. I can confirm that we have had one positive COVID case in one of our Primary classes at Riverside SPC in the last week and no additional pupils needed to self-isolate as a result.

You will also know that family engagement and feedback is extremely important to us. We are never complacent and are always keen to evolve our practice, so if you ever have any questions about your child's education at Riverside School, please don't hesitate to get in touch. With that in mind, I would like to draw your attention to the results below from the latest Governors' Family Survey and your feedback will shape our new School Development Plan. We look forward to sharing this with you in the near future.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and with very best wishes,

Steve Solomons
Headteacher

Dear Families,

Riverside School – Family Survey 2021

Thank you so much for completing our recent family survey. Your comments and scores were all combined into a report for Governors to look at and discuss in our Governing Board meetings this term. Hearing from you, our families, is so very important to us in our role of supporting and challenging the school's Leadership Team to ensure Riverside School is the best it can be. Thank you.

We were delighted to read, from all families, that your impressions of Riverside School are very positive. Many of the comments centred on the professionalism and dedication of Riverside School staff and how well we all, as a family, managed during the COVID pandemic.

We asked what the school did well during the lockdown period and what you, as parents and carers, would want to be continued now if possible. A selection of comments received were:



A few comments

"I feel the school were brilliant over lockdown, our family felt fully supported."

"They sent updates every week regarding the covid, best communication skills at this school. We always know what's happening and their best to support children and families."

"Communication - home communication is always very good but it was stepped up to the level needed. Use of technology for outbound comms like: home learning, parent evenings, video (you tube) teaching content etc."

"I don't even know how to say this, Riverside school have been very supportive to my son and my whole family during Covid. They provided all printed parent work for home-schooling son, sent us all digital material to connect, provided Sensory items for home learning, received phone call from his Teacher who is the best teacher and I am grateful for all her support. The TAs were so wonderful too all the way we felt being supported"

"Ideas for activities to complete at home"

"My child liked the teams meetings, and if for any reason my child needed to be away from school, a team meeting with their class during the absence would be wonderful."

"I feel the school went above and beyond in supporting not only their pupils but their families also, we really enjoyed the zoom calls which gave my son the opportunity to see everyone and reassure him all was well."

"Definitely the talking to the teachers over zoom, video chat more often than usual. That was so lovely too feel even more included in my sons school life."

We also asked families for any suggestions about anything you felt could make a real difference to the future of your child's education at Riverside. Again, we received so many positive comments and a few suggestions that we will consider:



One additional thing.....

"I'm more than happy with everything Riverside do"

"Continued communication especially if your child is on transport as you don't have the face to face contact with staff"

"Sometimes feel like communication and clarity on who is in the classrooms could be better. I know it's been a juggling act with Covid, but I was disappointed not to receive a letter stating class staff for next year, and visuals of my kid's team & classmates so I can prepare him for September."

"Bring back the DVD's! My daughter re-watches all her "annual review" DVD's and loves seeing old classmates and teachers again!"

"They have gone above and beyond to support us, thank you to all the teachers and headmaster for always choosing the best team"

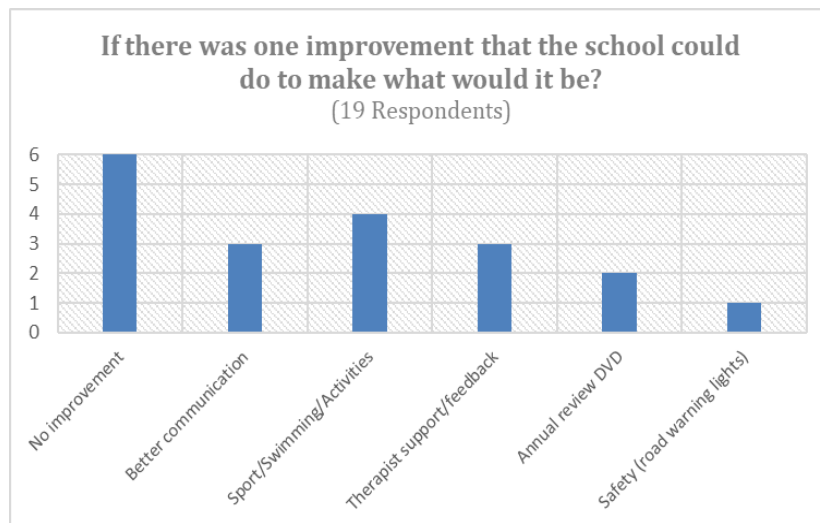
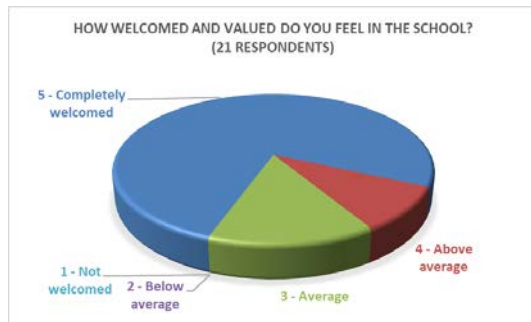
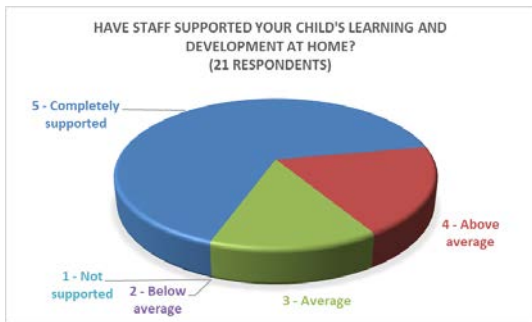
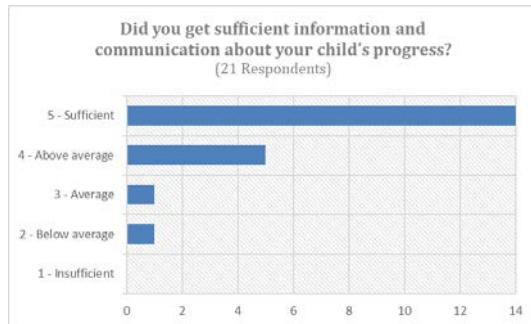
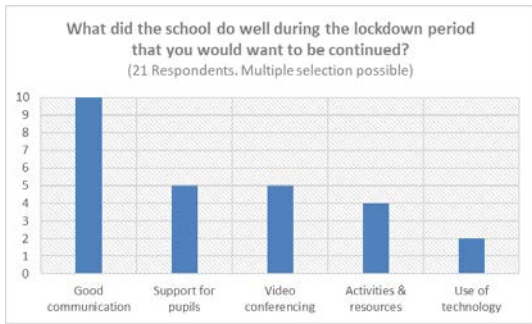
"I'm not sure there is any more the school could do, they already go above and beyond to ensure that the difficulties life with a special needs child bring are mitigated as much as possible. The school is a font of knowledge on how to get help when needed, who to contact and anything else our child may need."

"I remember in the past years, we received a video showing our child busy learning at school. I think that was a brilliant idea, because, unlike neurotypical children's parents, we don't know what a day is in school looks like."

"I cannot fault the school. They are incredible."

"I really feel there is nothing more"

We received so many positive scores to our general survey questions and we have charted these below:



We also received some useful feedback in our recent online parent survey and this combined with the survey results are very helpful to us as we conduct our annual strategic planning review. We have included actions in our new 2021/22 school development plan (SDP) to make sure it continues to support the children at Riverside and evolve these wishes.

The comments and scores are very reflective of all the efforts, dedication and positive contribution of everyone involved in your child's education and in achieving our school motto for our children to "Be All That They Can Be".

Thank you once again for completing the survey.

Best wishes.

Roger Fernandes
Parent Governor