RIVERSIDE SCHOOL
Be All That You Can Be

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16th October 2026

Dear Riverside families,

I hope you are all well.

It has certainly been an action-packed half term and we are well and truly back into the swing of things. Whilst September was spent settling your children into their new classes, October has seen routines established and the blossoming of new relationships. We know how important it is that our pupils, your children, feel safe and secure at school, surrounded by trusted adults who really "get them". We also hope that they feel a real sense of community and connection with those around them, regardless of their age, phase, site or pathway.

You will soon be receiving your child's latest Personal Learning Plan (PLP) and their Happiness Passport will follow after half term. These documents aim to capture the areas of learning that will make the biggest difference to their lives and outline the environmental factors that will enable them to flourish. Our approach is underpinned by the SCERTS Model and as Bromley's Specialist SCERTS Hub, we are also supporting other schools and organisations in the implementation of some of the key principles. These can be found at www.scerts.com and if you would like any further information about how this framework supports your child, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

I would like to mention a few wider school developments and I hope you find them useful.

If your child ordinarily accesses the hydrotherapy pool at SPC, you will have received a letter a couple of weeks ago advising that we had been unable to open the pool in September due to a number of challenges. Our commitment has always been to resolve these as soon as were able to do and I am really pleased to say that we expect to be in a position to re-open the pool a week after we return from the half term break. Thank you for your patience and understanding and we look forward to re-introducing hydrotherapy into the timetable very soon.

In response to your feedback, we are now rolling out our new Home/School Communication App, Evidence Me and Phoenix and Beckenham families will now be on board. The rollout to SPC and West Wickham will follow shortly and I hope you find this new initiative to be a positive one. Further guidance will follow soon and we will continue to keep all our communication systems under review to ensure they work in the most effective way for all parties.

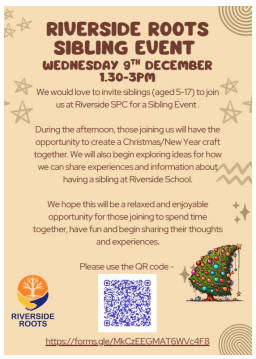
Our "Riverside Roots" initiative continues to build momentum and we held our first event of the year earlier this week. This provided families with information about school-based initiatives and community-based opportunities and I hope you found it useful. There were many organisations in attendance and I thought I'd signpost you to Bromley's SEND Local Offer, designed to offer a central hub of information and support for families around education, health and social care, as well as links to local organisations and activities. Please see https://bromleysend.org/.

Also under the Riverside Roots umbrella, we are delighted to be organising the following events next

half term and please sign up via the links or QR code in the flyers recently sent. We have our Christmas Fair to look forward to and hope you can attend this Riverside School community event, regardless of which site your child is based.









For our West Wickham families, I wanted to let you know that there will be some planned building work at the front of the school starting next week and this has been organised by the Borough as part of their capital projects programme. One of the benefits will be to improve the current electrical infrastructure serving the school and we will continue to liaise closely with the contractors to minimise disruption and ensure everything continues to run as smoothly as possible from our end.

For families who access Lighthouse Club at Riverside School, I am writing to let you know that Mel, our Lighthouse Club Manager, will be leaving us at the end of October and, on behalf of everyone associated with Lighthouse Club, I would like to extend our thanks to Mel for her service. We are in the process of recruiting a new manager to ensure a seamless transition and will keep you fully informed. In response to recent requests, I am also attaching our new term dates to take us up to July 2028.

There are so many things to look forward to in November and December, with class-based, phase-based and site-based events fully in the planning stage. More details will follow for what promises to be another fun-filled half term ahead!

That just remains for me to wish you all a safe, happy and healthy half term and we look forward to seeing your children again on 2nd November.

With very best wishes,

Steve Solomons
Headteacher