

1st September 2026

Dear Riverside families,

I hope you are well and have had a good summer.

It has been lovely to welcome your child back to school today and I hope their first day has been a positive one. We know that some children bounce back into school after a long break whilst for others, the transition can be a little more difficult. Wherever your child sits within this continuum, I hope they settle quickly and start to feel secure in their new surroundings. The first couple of weeks are always a period of adjustment, with a focus on establishing and re-establishing the kinds of relationships that help them find their place and find their voice. However loud or quiet, we will always listen and tailor our responses and approaches accordingly.

If today has been your child's first day at Riverside School, I hope they have returned home happy, despite any natural anxieties that they (or you) may have had. We know how daunting the first day at a new school can be and we are here to support them, and you, as they get into the swing of Riverside life. If there is anything you need to ease the transition, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher and I hope that you start to feel part of the wider school community, the Riverside family, very soon.

Regardless of your child's age, phase, site or pathway, our commitment is to provide them with a profoundly personalised curriculum and an environment that enables them to flourish. We remain fully committed to working in partnership with you; to understand what will make the biggest difference to your lives and to celebrate your child's many achievements along the way. We want you to receive the information you need to feel included in all aspects of their school experience, so please let your child's teacher know what you want to hear about. In addition, please feel free to contact the following colleagues if you would like any further support:

Riverside SPC: Daniella Costanza (Primary); Katie Collett-Strutt (KS3/KS4) and Clare Collett (6th Form)

Riverside Beckenham: Claudia Crack

Riverside West Wickham: Emma Mouncher

Riverside Phoenix: Natasha Capoccia / Molly Fielding

We have an exciting new Extended Leadership Team structure, so that depending on your query, you may be directed to other colleagues who will be best-placed to support you and your child. Some are site-based and others have whole-school responsibilities and this flexible model supports our *One School* ethos. Whichever site your child is based at, we will be on hand to answer any questions or signpost to other colleagues as required.

Our school community now serves 360 pupils, aged 3-19, in 40 classes over 4 sites:



25 at Riverside SPC



6 at Riverside Beckenham



5 at Riverside West Wickham



4 at Riverside Phoenix

We are privileged to serve a school community that boasts 35 different home languages and we stand proudly together to promote inclusion and truly celebrate difference. We remain resolute in playing our part in Building a Brighter Future and our longer-term ambitions will be reflected in our new School Development Plan later this year. Thank you to all of you who contributed to the survey in the Summer Term – please know that your feedback will be incorporated into what promises to be a really exciting blueprint for what lies ahead ...

I thought it may also be helpful to let you know about Bromley's SEND Local Offer, which has been designed to offer a central hub of information and support for children and young people (0-25 years) and their families. It provides guidance of educational, health and social care services, as well as links to local organisations and activities. You can find it at <https://bromleysend.org/> and I hope you find it useful.

So, that's it for now, other than to say how much we are all looking forward to the term ahead. We will continue to do our very best to fill your child's days with the types of activities and opportunities that motivate, excite and inspire them to learn more, do more and know more. We will aim to take them out of their comfort zone, providing the right blend of support and challenge so they can flourish within, outside and beyond Riverside School. We will never lose sight of the things that really matter to you and your child – to be seen, heard and truly valued for who they are. To feel part of something bigger than themselves; to feel connected and to feel a true sense of belonging. We can't wait to get started!



With very best wishes,

Steve Solomons
Headteacher