

19<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Families,

I hope that you and your loved ones are all well.

The week has flown by already and our preparations for the festive season are well and truly underway. They start with our Immersive Christmas Experience for Riverside West Wickham pupils and Riverside SPC Early Years pupils next week; our Riverside Beckenham show the week after; our Riverside SPC Primary show the week after that and our Staff Panto in the final week of term. There will also be a number of special class-based and phase events happening over the course of the next month and if your family do not celebrate Christmas, please know that we will ensure your child gets to enjoy a range of other special end-of-year experiences.

Despite the continued COVID challenges, we very much hope that all our in-person events will still happen and you will be aware that we have had to place some restrictions on the number of people attending certain events. Thank you for your understanding as we strive to maintain the balance between inviting families into school, something which we know is so important, whilst trying to keep our whole school community as safe as possible. With this in mind, and in light of the high number of positive cases in the community in general, we are asking that all guests attending events wear a face covering, unless they are exempt from doing so.

You will know that 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 two positive COVID cases at Riverside School this week, one in a Primary SPC class and one in a Riverside West Wickham class. No additional pupils needed to self-isolate as a result.

We have just ended the week with a day filled with fun activities to mark BBC Children in Need Day. Their mission is "to help ensure every child in the UK is safe, happy, secure and has the opportunities they need to reach their potential", aiming also to "remove the barriers that are facing children and young people, so that they can thrive". These sentiments are very close to our own hearts, mission, vision and motto and as always, if there is anything we can do to make a bigger difference, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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

Steve Solomons  
Headteacher