

17th October 2025

Dear Riverside families,

I hope you are all well.

It has been an action-packed half term and we are well and truly back into the swing of things. Whilst September was spent settling 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” and in the right class for their uniquely individual needs. As you will be aware, we now have 40 classes over four sites, spanning five different curriculum pathways and we are continually reviewing class and site placement to ensure that the environment is the most appropriate one for each child. We know that individual needs are ever-changing and we will always be open and transparent with you should a class change be proposed. Please know that these decisions are never taken lightly, and always with your child's best interests at heart.

You will have recently received your child's latest Personal Learning Plan (PLP) and Home Learning Plan (HLP), in slightly different formats than previously. As you know, we never stand still! What does remain constant, however, is our commitment to always work on the things that will make the biggest difference to your child's life and the life of your family. We hope that these documents fully reflect what you want and need for your child, both in school and home and if you have any questions about either document, or any wider feedback that you would like to share, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or a member of the Leadership Team. Their new Happiness Passport, another key document in their school life, will be with you later this term.

In other wider school news, there are a couple of things that I would like to mention and whilst they may not apply to all families, I hope you find them useful.

For our Riverside SPC families, I am delighted to say that after many months campaigning by the school and a group of Riverside parents, we are expecting Bromley Council to be carrying out road safety measures outside the school over half term. We have worked together to consider a range of options and given the parameters that the council are working within, we are hopeful that the one proposed is the best and safest one. This will include new road markings, single yellow lines with restrictions so that families can drop off and pick up and a new pedestrian island enabling safer crossing from one side of the road to the other. We are very hopeful that these measures will improve safety and result in a less stressful start and end to the day for all of you who bring your child into school.

On that note, I would also like to take this opportunity to clarify our attendance expectations with regard to the timings of the school day. In recent months, there have been an increasing number of children at SPC who are being dropped off later and picked up earlier than our official

school hours. Not only does this mean that their educational experience and learning time is being shortened, they are also missing out on important daily routines that signify key parts of the day. It is also fair to say that it can be disruptive for other pupils and class staff and impacts on the smooth running at the beginning and end of each day in a number of classes. You will be aware that we open our doors at 9:00am and, moving forwards, we respectfully ask that children arrive at this time. It can take a little while for all the children to come into school, so we will build in a degree of flexibility and extend drop-off times until 9:15am if required. Equally, and for the same reasons as outlined above, we respectfully ask that children are picked up when we open our doors at 3:15pm and not beforehand. Again, we know that it can take some time for all the children to leave the building, so we will build in a degree of flexibility and extend pick up times until 3:30pm at the latest.

We fully acknowledge the pressures that families face and do not want this to add any further stresses for you over the next fortnight so if you are impacted by this and would like us to consider exceptional circumstances in your child's case, please email admin@riverside.bromley.sch.uk on our return. All requests for late drop-offs / early pick-ups will be considered individually, on a case-by-case basis at that time. Please know that whenever we put forward proposals for changing practice, they are done with the whole school community in mind, balanced with specific individual needs. We hope that you understand our position and thank you in advance for your understanding.

During the half term break, we are undertaking maintenance works at all four sites and we continue to develop our physical environments to ensure they provide your child with what they need to flourish. There are so many things to look forward to in November and December, with class-based, phase-based and site-based events already 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 child again on 3rd November.

With very best wishes,



Steve Solomons
Headteacher