

24th May 2024

Dear Riverside families,

I hope that you are all well.

So, another half term has passed and, as always, there have been many highlights at an individual pupil level as well as at a wider school level. As a school, we opened our pool after many months of renovation and the pupils' responses as they got back into the water made the efforts 100% worthwhile. We have extended our relationship with Magpie Dance, meaning that pupils from all four sites have had additional Expressive Arts opportunities; we have increased our partnerships within the local community to further enhance our work and community experience programme; we marked Mental Health Awareness Week with a range of activities and events including "Read and Chill" Day; we facilitated a group of girls attending the Women's FA Cup Final at Wembley and we held our Annual Family Conference (all presentations and contact details of external agencies can be found at: <https://www.riversideschool.org.uk/page/?title=Family+Conference&pid=365>). We also held one of the most important days of the year, Bring Yourself Day. This is a day to share and celebrate what makes every single member of the Riverside School community unique: everyone's culture, heritage, special interests and, to quote Dr. Suess, a day when "Today you are You, that is truer than true, there is no one alive who is Youer than You".

In addition to the all the highlights and celebrations, it is also really important to acknowledge that many of our pupils (and families) have had to adapt to, and cope with, changes in personal circumstances, including changes to physical and/or mental health. This may have resulted in extended stays in hospital or increased numbers of appointments with unfamiliar people in unfamiliar places, and it is to your and your children's credit how they have coped and responded at these times. They truly are the definition of resilience.

You will be aware that our first day back after half-term is a whole-school Annual Review day (if your child is in Year 13, you will have received a separate letter outlining the process) and therefore pupils' first day back will be Tuesday 4th June. We are all looking forward to the events planned for the remainder of the Summer Term and further details for individual events will follow soon. For now, key dates for your diary include the Secondary Prom on Thursday 27th June (4-6pm); Summer Fair on Saturday 29th June (12-2pm); Year 14 Leavers' Celebration on Thursday 4th July (10:30am); Parents' Evening on Tuesday 9th July (4-7pm) for Riverside Beckenham, Phoenix and West Wickham families and Wednesday 10th July (4-7pm) for Riverside SPC families.

You will also receive details of "Join in June" directly from your child's class team soon – this is an invitation to join your child in school for a specific session or class event and we hope you can make it.

This is the time of year when we finalise our class arrangements for the new academic year and the Parents' Evenings listed above will give you the opportunity to meet your child's new class team. As one school on four sites, you will be aware that pupils can transfer from one site to another and this is determined by a number of different factors, including age, learning profile and peer group, amongst many other considerations. Our Riverside Phoenix site will continue to serve our youngest pupils (from Nursery-Year 2); our Riverside Beckenham and West Wickham sites serve pupils through their primary years and for some, into the early part of their secondary years and our Riverside SPC site serves pupils through the 3-19 age range. If your child is transitioning from one site to another in the Autumn Term, please be assured that we will make the transition process as smooth as possible. We know that our pupils require different transition arrangements and we will put in place whatever is needed to set them up for success in the Autumn Term. Whilst we understand that this can be an anxious time, as change often is, we are one school, with one mission and one set of values, meaning that wherever the next stage of their Riverside journey takes them, we have every confidence that they will continue to flourish. Our commitment to working in partnership with you remains the same and if there is anything else we can do to support you or your child at this time (or at any time), please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Wishing you a happy and healthy half term.

Kindest regards,



Steve Solomons
Headteacher