

31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Dear Families,

I hope you are all well. So, another term has flown by and as always, there is much to celebrate and also reflect upon.

We have now refreshed our website and you will find lots of new content, including a selection of resources, training materials and short films that we hope you find useful. Whether you are searching for stories and songs to share with your child; visual supports to aid transitions, or videos demonstrating some of the approaches and interventions we use at Riverside, please check out [www.riversideschool.org.uk](http://www.riversideschool.org.uk). If there is anything you feel is missing and would like more information about, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

In addition to events such as Red Nose Day and World Book Day, we try to ensure that every day at Riverside is filled with learning opportunities and special memories. Sometimes there are those Eureka moments of sudden, triumphant discovery, inspiration or insight. They could be big, or they could be small, but they are often transforming – a first step, or word, or gesture, the learning of a dance routine, the sharing of a special toy or the development of a new friendship, Whatever your child has achieved this term, whether planned or unplanned, we hope you have enjoyed sharing it with them.

We ended the term with our Secondary Show – Riverside High 2 and I wanted to share a few themes from the show with you. The story is set in 1969, the year that the first man landed on the moon and is a tale of hope, spirit, and ultimately, triumph over adversity. It is about a sense of community, belonging and togetherness. These themes are ones that we hold dear at Riverside School, and with our 335 children and families, it remains incredibly important to us to look after our whole school community. Because as we learnt in Riverside High 2, together we are stronger and together, anything is possible. With that in mind, I thought I'd re-share the ten pledges which underpin our School Development Plan: Building a Brighter Future – The Riverside Way:

**Pledge 1:** We will equip our pupils with a profoundly personalised curriculum framework so that they succeed, flourish and leave their mark on the world.

**Pledge 2:** We will improve the emotional wellbeing of our pupils and their families by placing The Pursuit of Happiness at the heart of our multi-agency work.

**Pledge 3:** We will ensure current and future pupils make remarkable progress by attracting and developing the highest calibre special educators at Riverside School and beyond.

**Pledge 4:** We will shift mindsets, shape policy and change practice to secure system-wide school improvement at a local, national and international level.

**Pledge 5:** We will ensure that families have their lived experiences acknowledged and their voices heard in order to bring about positive change for themselves, their children and other families.

**Pledge 6:** We will improve community access, inclusion and participation for our pupils and their families and create a ripple in communities up and down the country,

**Pledge 7:** We will make the seemingly unachievable achievable by engaging, energising and mobilising our whole school community to Build a Brighter Future – The Riverside Way.

**Pledge 8:** We will consciously, deliberately and systematically ensure that our school and the local community is a more sustainable and greener place.

**Pledge 9:** We will campaign tirelessly with, and for our pupils and their families, to amplify the voices of disadvantaged and marginalised communities and create a society which is more equal, just and fair.

**Pledge 10:** We will promote inclusion and celebrate diversity in all its forms to ensure that everyone in our school community feels a true sense of belonging.

For more information about our School Development Plan and all areas of our work, please check out our website, but for now, I wanted to end by reaffirming our wholehearted commitment to each and every one of your children. Whether they are three foot six or six foot three, we will always see them; whether they roar or whisper, we will always hear them; and whether they wear blue, orange and yellow or red with black spots, we will always be there for them.

Have a good Easter and with very best wishes,



Steve Solomons  
Headteacher