

9<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Families,

I hope that you and your loved ones are all well. In the spirit of embracing all things football, this week has indeed been a week of two halves. We have had the excitement and euphoria of England reaching the Final on Sunday, coupled with the reminder that COVID is still with us, as reflected in the number of cases rising both locally and nationally. As promised in previous letters, we will continue to update you on a weekly basis should any of our pupils or staff receive a positive COVID-19 test result across the school and we will of course inform you immediately if your child is directly affected. Since last Friday, we have received confirmation of four positive cases amongst staff, one at Riverside SPC, one at Riverside Beckenham, one at Riverside West Wickham and one at Saturday club. We have tried very hard to keep disruption to a minimum but four classes have, unfortunately, had to stay at home as a result of these cases. This mirrors the situation in schools up and down the country, where more and more children are spending time at home when we would all want them to be in school, but like all other schools, we continue to follow the guidance in order to minimise the risk of further transmission. If your child is currently at home, please do not hesitate to let the class teacher know if there is anything you need and we look forward to seeing them again soon.

You will be aware of the Prime Minister's announcement at the beginning of the week that Stage 4 of the Roadmap and the easing of restrictions will go ahead as planned on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Of course, we would have loved to explore different options for the final week of term but our commitment from the outset of the pandemic has always been to keep our whole school community as safe as possible and in light of the rising number of cases locally and nationally, we will continue with our current practices and control measures until our final day of term on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. This does not mean that the final fortnight won't be filled with fun; we will simply be doing things a little differently to usual. You will see that our annual Riverfest will be virtual this year and we will do everything we can to ensure that the final fortnight of what has been a pretty unique year is still one that your wonderful children will remember with real fondness.

I would like to thank those of you who have responded to our Parents' Survey. If you have not yet had the opportunity, this is your final chance to respond and we would really love to hear from you. Your views really do matter to us and genuinely shape our practice and priorities, so this is a final call to complete the survey by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July. The survey is short and will only take a few minutes, so please click on the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/232WJQV> or, alternatively, please scan the QR code below.



Whether your upcoming weekend involves the football or not, I hope you have a good one and sending you my very best wishes.



Steve Solomons  
Headteacher