

27th March 2026

Dear Riverside families,

I hope that you are all well.

So, another term has flown by and, as always, never a dull moment! It has had the usual blend of thrills and excitement; trials and triumphs and I am sure that your child has experienced at least one (and probably all four) of these over the past few months. As we moved through Winter and into Spring, so there were many new beginnings and "firsts". A first word, a first step, a first true friend – all things that we never take for granted.

We often talk about our pupils' journey though the school, whether from class to class or site to site. They transition in, through and, as some of you will be preparing for, out. Beyond Riverside, ready for the next chapter of their lives. Sometimes the path is smooth and sometimes it's a little bumpy. Sometimes the air is calm and sometimes it's a little stormy. Our job at Riverside is to support our pupils, your children, throughout their school journey and to prepare them for life outside and life beyond Riverside. Ready to face the world, whatever is thrown at them. We aim to take them out of their comfort zones, so that they can deal with uncertainty, however hard that can often be.

This week you will receive your child's Personal Learning Plan (PLP) and Home Learning Plan (HLP) and we hope that the outcomes are ones which excite, engage and motivate them. We truly value our partnership with you so if there are any areas that you would like more information about, or targets that you would like to break down or extend, please don't hesitate to let your child's class teacher know.

We are already looking forward to next term and all that the Summer Term brings. In addition to the usual seasonal celebrations, there are a number of wider community events planned, from sibling movie afternoons, to Riverside alumni get-togethers and the constant evolution of Riverside Roots. Please watch this space for more details soon.

You will be aware that we held Parent Governor elections earlier this month and I can confirm that George Christian and Clarissa Hoare were elected. The Governing Board's three core functions are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding leaders to account for the educational performance of the school;
- Overseeing financial performance and making sure money is well spent.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the two successful candidates and I look forward to working in close partnership to ensure Riverside School is the best it can possibly be. Quite simply, your children deserve nothing less.

To finish, I would like to bring us back to the theme of "Journeys". This week saw our Secondary Stage Show for pupils in Orange and Yellow Pathways and for those of you who were able to attend the performance, I hope you enjoyed it. The show tackled a range of important themes and it is with real pleasure that we share the film with you [HERE](#). A recording of the live performance will be available after the break. I won't give away any spoilers, but to whet the appetite, I thought I'd share the opening words from the show ...

"Everyone is on a journey. Some journeys are seen, others are felt. Some are across land; some are across seas. Some begin quietly, some change everything. Nature's journey is through instinct. Human journeys may be for different reasons. To be included. To find our place. To feel safe. To be understood. We move together, carrying our different stories. Different paths. Different experiences. Different journeys".

And the final words ...

"As we reach the end of our journey, remember that each of our stories are interconnected. Embrace your own journey and the paths of others. Celebrate our differences and stand united wherever you go. We're not so different after all. You and me. There's more that connects us than divides us. My journey. Your journey. Our journey".

Wherever you and your child are on their Riverside journey; we hope it is one that brings unbridled joy, special moments and memories that last a lifetime.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy couple of weeks and we look forward to continuing our journey with you in the Summer Term.

With very best wishes,



Steve Solomons
Headteacher