

5th November 2021

Dear Families,

I hope that you are all well. We have had a very enjoyable first week back after half term, with some spookily spectacular activities to start the week and Diwali celebrations and fireworks to end it. Everywhere you look, you can't avoid the fizz and sparkle!

As you will appreciate, we have carefully considered all upcoming plans in light of the current COVID situation and we have tried to strike a balance between offering a range of fun and festive events that can be shared with a wider audience, whilst remaining measured, responsible and committed to keeping our whole school community as safe as possible. For that reason, we have decided not to run our usual Christmas Fair this year. This has always taken place indoors and is very well-attended, meaning that it can get very crowded and, in light of the current COVID case rate, we do not feel it would be right to run such an event this year. You will have received an email regarding our Christmas raffle and this is something that definitely will be happening. What will also be taking place will be a number of different phase or site-specific events and more details will follow very soon. In the meantime, please save the following dates (and please note that these are all planned to be in-person, but are subject to change in light of changing circumstances):

22nd / 23rd November: StarLight StarBright – Riverside West Wickham Immersive Christmas Experience

24th November: StarLight StarBright – Riverside SPC Early Years Immersive Christmas Experience

3rd December: Legendary – Riverside Beckenham Showcase

9th December: Legendary – Riverside SPC Primary Showcase

15th December: A Mermaid's Tale – Panto Performance (Whole School)

As you will be aware, our commitment has always been to communicate frequently and openly with you about all COVID-related matters, including letting you know about any positive cases at school. I can confirm that we have had four pupils and three members of staff testing positive for COVID-19 over the past fortnight, the majority of which were confirmed during the half term break. They affected one Primary and one Secondary class at Riverside SPC and one class at Riverside Beckenham, although no additional pupils needed to self-isolate as a result.

Approximately 40 secondary-aged pupils received their second COVID vaccination yesterday and I am delighted to say that the process ran very smoothly. The majority of our staff have now had their booster jabs (or are in the process of having them), so we hope that this will also contribute to maintaining a safe and happy school environment as we look forward to an exciting half term ahead.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and with very best wishes,



Steve Solomons
Headteacher