

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Families,

First and foremost, I hope you are all safe and well in these challenging times. I am writing to let you know the school's current position and plan for the second half of the Summer Term.

In my last letter, dated 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020, our pledge to you was *"If we can offer you something that will help ease the current challenges, in a safe and responsible way, then that is what we will always try to do"* and we asked you to indicate whether you would like your child to spend some time in school during the second half of the Summer Term. We have looked through all your responses and I am writing to share with you our plan for offering school-based support from 1<sup>st</sup> June:

- Every family who has requested school-based support for their child for after half term will be allocated **two days per week, starting Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.**
- **Primary-aged pupils** from both sites will be allocated **Mondays and Tuesdays** and **Secondary-aged pupils** will be allocated **Thursdays and Fridays.**
- Children of critical workers and particularly vulnerable children or families will be allocated additional days as deemed appropriate through our existing arrangements (the Collaborative Risk Assessment Model).
- We have set up "teams" in the same way that mainstream schools are setting up "bubbles".
- In each of our "teams", there will be a maximum of **three pupils with two staff** (unless in exceptional circumstances).
- These "teams" will remain consistent for the duration of the term, with the same pupils staying with the same staff in the same classrooms. This will reduce the number of interactions between different staff and pupils.
- Each "team" will have an additional adult allocated to support during lunchtimes.

We said in our last letter that *"the safety of the whole Riverside School community will remain paramount in the weeks and months ahead and we will therefore implement a range of protective and preventative measures to reduce risks as much as we can, although we cannot eliminate all risks"*. We have produced a number of comprehensive risk assessments which identify all the potential risk factors and describe the ways in which they can be controlled and now that we know the numbers of pupils coming in and have a clear plan of action in place, these measures will include:

- Encouraging social distancing as far as is practicable, given our pupils' needs;
- Ensuring regular and increased cleaning in classrooms and shared spaces;
- Minimising the sharing of any resources and equipment and ensuring frequently touched objects and surfaces are cleaned and disinfected regularly;
- Encouraging frequent hand washing and good hygiene practices;
- Reducing times when children could potentially congregate, such as break times; arrival and departure times;
- Utilising outdoor space where possible;
- Keeping windows open to increase ventilation;

- Providing visual reminders and prompts to support children in their understanding of new practices (which we hope will also support their understanding about similar measures in the community, eg floor markings);
- The school will have undergone a thorough deep clean over the half term break in preparation for the children returning.

When you completed your surveys online, there were a few common questions and we have tried to answer them below:

### **Will my child receive home-school transport?**

Colleagues from the Bromley SEN Transport team will contact you next week to ask you whether you would like to / are able to transport your child to and from school and if you are able to do this, they will offer parental mileage. If you are unable to transport your child to and from school, please let them know when they contact you and they will discuss this with you further.

### **Will start and finish times stay the same?**

We are making slight changes to start and finish times depending on your child's travel arrangements: if you are bringing your child in, please arrive between 9:20am and 9:30am and please collect them at 3:20pm. If your child is coming in on home-school transport, they will come into school at 9:00am and leave at 3:00pm. These staggered times will reduce the chances of children mixing more widely.

### **What will happen at lunchtimes?**

We would encourage your child to have a school lunch and these will be provided by Nourish, our regular catering contractor. They will be offering a revised Deli menu (baguettes, wraps, vegetable sticks, fruit, cake, etc) but if you would prefer to send your child in with a packed lunch, that would be fine.

### **What will my child be doing at school?**

The curriculum offer will be different for your child in school and they will not have the same access to their usual timetable (such as swimming, trips or bigger events). The main focus will be to reconnect with other children and adults and to settle back into a school routine (albeit a different routine to the one they had previously). Their school-based support will replace their current home-based support and please send your child's home-school contact book in with them so we can let you know how they have got on during the day.

### **What should I do if my child or anyone at home has Coronavirus symptoms?**

If this is the case, your child should not come into school and as per the current NHS and government advice, you should keep them at home for a period of seven days. Where symptoms continue after seven days, or begin to worsen, you should call 111. If someone in your child's household has symptoms, your child must self-isolate for 14 days from the day the other person's symptoms started. This is because it can take 14 days for symptoms to appear.

### **What will happen if a child or staff member develops coronavirus symptoms at school?**

If a child or staff member develops Coronavirus symptoms, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days, and the rest of the household should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and children who

are attending school will have access to a test if they display Coronavirus symptoms and should not return to school before the results of the test are known.

### **What will happen if a child or staff member tests negative?**

If a child or staff member tests negative, they can return to school and their fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

### **What will happen if a child or staff member tests positive?**

If a child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their "team" will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. Other household members do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with subsequently develops symptoms.

Whilst the main focus of this letter has been around school-based support for those of you that requested this for after half term, some of you said that you would like to review the situation later in the term and, in the week of 22<sup>nd</sup> June, you will have the opportunity to request school-based support for the final month of term should you wish. We know that this may be particularly relevant for those pupils and families who are moving to the next stage of their education and we will continue to liaise with their next school or college to ensure the transition process is as smooth as possible.

In addition to all the measures above related to school-based support, there will be a number of you that have decided to keep your child at home at the moment and we completely respect your decision to do so. We remain fully committed to supporting you and your child as we have tried to do in the last two months and if there is anything else we can do to support you at home, please do let us know.

So, for those of you who are keeping your child at home at the moment, please be assured that we are thinking of you and sending you all our love. And for those of you whose children will be re-joining us after half term, we can't wait to see them again.

The safety and wellbeing of the whole Riverside School community is our top priority and we will continue to review our arrangements on a regular basis in line with any further guidance issued. In the meantime, however, and on behalf of the whole of the Riverside School team, take care and sending you all our very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Solomons  
Headteacher