

12th March 2021

Dear Families,

I hope that you and your loved ones are all well. It has been lovely to welcome back more pupils at the beginning of the week and, with an almost-full school, over our three sites, we remain vigilant and robust in our control measures, whilst looking forward to brighter skies with optimism and ambition.

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. We will of course inform you immediately if your child is directly affected. I can confirm that, since last Friday, through our asymptomatic testing programme, we have had one member of staff testing positive in one of our Secondary classes at Riverside SPC, resulting in one class having to self-isolate.

Whilst positive cases at Riverside have been very low recently (just one case in the past five weeks), I wanted to draw your attention to a couple of points. Firstly, if a member of staff tests positive at home using a lateral flow device (LFD), they are required to book a polymerase chain reaction test (PCR) in order to confirm the initial result. So, if a member of staff tests positive at home in the evening using a LFD, we will contact you to inform you that your child will need to self-isolate until we receive confirmation through the PCR test. If the PCR test comes back negative, then the self-isolation period will end and your child can return to school but if the PCR test comes back positive (as in the case above), then your child will need to self-isolate for ten days.

Secondly, you may be aware that household members of school-aged children, who do not have symptoms, are now able to access regular coronavirus testing at home. There are four [different ways](#) to receive a test kit:

- You may be able to get a test through your own employer if they can offer rapid lateral flow testing to you.
- You can take a test at a rapid lateral flow test site. Testing at these sites is assisted, meaning that you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator. You may need to book an appointment. [Find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site.](#)
- You can collect two packs of home test kits, each containing seven tests, at a local collection point. Most collection points are open from 1:30pm to 7pm and you can check online if the location is open or busy before you go. You do not need to make an appointment. [Find your nearest home test kit collection point.](#)
- You can order home test kits online if you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits. [Order rapid lateral flow home test kits.](#)

As mentioned at the beginning of this letter, we are all looking forward to brighter skies ahead. This doesn't mean that we will become complacent, or drastically change our current control measures, but it does mean that we are starting to consider what the next few weeks and months could look like for your children and for us as a school. Whilst the Prime Minister's "roadmap" may not have thrown up any huge surprises when it was announced last month, it did provide some sense of what may happen in the next few months, if other factors and conditions are right. As a school, we felt that it would also be useful to write our own Riverside Roadmap for the remainder of the academic year and, as with everything we have tried to do since the beginning of the pandemic, this is a carefully-considered and measured response to current conditions. It aims to build on what is currently working well, whilst looking forward to how things could evolve as we progress through the Summer Term.

You will see that each section starts with the words: "If everything is moving in the right direction ..." and this applies to national, local and our own school conditions. You will also see words such as "consideration of", "possible" and "potential" and many of the changes include the caveat "with appropriate control measures in place". By taking this approach, we aim to strike a balance between caution and optimism and we have also borne in mind your informal feedback about how things are going and the things that you would like see in the future. We understand that the risk of committing something to paper is that it can seem definite, however everything on our Roadmap will be regularly reviewed and risk-assessed and all decisions will be made in the best interests of the whole school community. In essence, we wanted to produce and share our Roadmap in the same spirit of openness and transparency that we have adopted from the outset.

Our Roadmap is an aspiration, and as you know, Aspiration is one of our core values ...

Aspiration Resilience Creativity Humility Integrity Trust Enthusiasm Courage Teamwork

So, here's to a sunnier few weeks, with good times to come.

Have a good weekend and with very best wishes,



Steve Solomons
Headteacher

THE RIVERSIDE ROADMAP



National Roadmap stages	Riverside Roadmap stages	Actions
Stage 1a: From 8 th March Stage 1b: From 29 th March	Stage 1: 8 th March – 31 st March (weeks 1 – 4) EASTER HOLIDAY	<i>If everything is moving in the right direction ...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full time return for all pupils (unless in exceptional medical circumstances) • New staffing flexibilities as required • Move to home testing programme for staff • Return of Extended Services provision • Return to some face-to-face meetings (with appropriate control measures in place) • In-person support from other agencies (eg ICT) on all sites as necessary • Therapists working directly with pupils (with appropriate control measures in place)
Stage 2: From 12 th April	Stage 2: 19 th April – 14 th May (weeks 5 – 8)	<i>If everything is moving in the right direction ...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class drop ins by line leaders and follow up meetings (with appropriate control measures in place) • Out of hours parental visits • Certain visitors allowed into school (with restrictions and on a case-by-case basis) • 1:1 community walks (where appropriate and on a case-by-case basis) • Movement between sites for specific staff as required • Performing Arts Hall and Dance Studio open to classes (with appropriate control measures in place)
Stage 3: From 17 th May	Stage 3: 17 th May – 18 th June (weeks 9 – 12)	<i>If everything is moving in the right direction ...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small numbers of classes to come together for lunchtimes and playtimes • Shared spaces reinstated (after assessment of need and with appropriate control measures in place) • More flexible use / sharing of staff rooms • Pool open for particular pupils (with preparation and training undertaken as necessary) • Parental visits (with appropriate control measures in place)
Stage 4: From 21 st June	Stage 4: 21 st June – 23 rd July (weeks 13 – 17)	<i>If everything is moving in the right direction ...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of phase assemblies and wider school gatherings, eg Summer Fair / Riverfest • Possible trips for some classes (including walking / use of minibuses / off-site swimming) • Potential cross-site visits to use certain facilities (eg Performing Arts Hall, pool)