

1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Dear Riverside families,

I hope that you are all well and have had a good summer.

It has been so lovely to welcome your child into school today and I hope that their first day has been a positive one. We know that some children positively bounce back into school after a break and for others, the transition from home to school can be more challenging. We hope that your child settles quickly and starts to feel secure in their new surroundings. The focus in these first few weeks is to develop the kinds of relationships that will enable them to find their place and find their voice, in whatever form this takes. And however loud or quiet, we will always hear them and tailor our responses and approaches accordingly.

If today has been your child's first day at Riverside School, I hope they have returned home happy, despite any natural anxieties that they (or you) may have. We know how daunting the first day at a new school can be and we are here to support them, and you, as they get into the swing of Riverside life. If there is anything at all you need to ease the transition, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's teacher and I hope that you start to feel part of the wider school community, the Riverside family, very soon.

And talking of "community", I'm sure you will have seen the flags across the borough and I felt it was appropriate to take this opportunity to reinforce who we are and what we stand for. Our blue, orange and yellow colours represent inclusion, diversity and our Be Here. Be You. Belong mural stands loud and proud. We feel privileged to serve a school community that boasts 35 different home languages and are wholly committed to playing our part in building a brighter future. A future where differences are celebrated and kindness and hope triumph over exclusion and division. These commitments are reflected in the ten pledges within our School Development Plan and they underpin our mission and vision. These can be found at: <https://www.riversideschool.org.uk/page/?title=About+Us&pid=135>



Our school community now serves 360 pupils, aged 3-19, in 40 classes over 4 sites:



25 at Riverside SPC



6 at Riverside Beckenham



5 at Riverside West Wickham



4 at Riverside Phoenix

Regardless of your child's age, phase, site or pathway, our commitment remains to provide them with a profoundly personalised curriculum and an environment that enables them to flourish. To make significant progress in the areas that really matter and to feel truly valued for who they are. We are also fully committed to working in partnership with you, to understand what will make the biggest difference to your lives and to celebrate your child's achievements along the way. We want you to receive the information you need to feel included in all aspects of their school experience, so please let your child's teacher know what you want to hear about. Following the successful pilot of a home-school communication app last term, we will be rolling this out across the school over the course of the next few months. In the interim, please continue to use the home-school contact book to communicate with your child's class team and please feel free to contact anyone on the Leadership Team if you require any further support. We are:

Headteacher: Steve Solomons

Deputy Headteachers: Amy Price and Charlotte Downs

School Business Manager: Naomi Walters

Assistant Headteachers: Clare Collett, Daniella Costanza, Helen Bushell-Movahedi and Katie Collett-Strutt

Phase Leaders: Clare Marseglia, Emily Morris, Laura Stevens, Lauren Colegate and Lucy Godley

Some members of the Leadership Team are site-based and others work across all sites, and all have whole-school responsibilities. This flexible model supports our One School ethos and whichever site your child is based at, we will be on hand to answer any questions or signpost to other colleagues as required.

So, that's it for now, other than to say how much we are all looking forward to the term ahead. We will continue to do our very best to fill your child's days with the types of activities and opportunities that motivate, excite and inspire them to learn more, do more and know more. We will also aim to take your child out of their comfort zone, providing the right blend of support and challenge to help them flourish within, outside and beyond Riverside School. We can't wait to get started!

With very best wishes,



Steve Solomons  
Headteacher