

21<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Dear Families,

I hope that you are all well. Like schools and organisations up and down the country, we have been affected by a number of seasonal bugs and if your child has been poorly in recent weeks, I hope that they are recovering well and are back to being healthy and happy in time for the Christmas holiday.

Today marks the end of another busy and fun-filled term at Riverside School. For those of you whose children started with us in September, we hope that their first term at Riverside has been a successful one and we also hope that your early experiences of Riverside School have been positive. Thank you to so many of you who have completed our Joiners' Survey – we look forward to sharing and acting on your feedback in the new year. For our existing families, we remain wholly committed to serving you, and your child as best we can and we are always open and receptive to feedback. These are some of the questions we asked new families last month and regardless of how long your child has been with us, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher or a member of the Leadership Team if you would like to let us know how you feel about the following questions:

- It is extremely important to us that you and your child feel valued and part of the school community and with that in mind, how welcomed and valued do you feel in school?
- Do you feel that the school has supported your child's learning and development at home (eg through Personal Learning Plans; Home Learning Plans; contact from the class, etc?)
- Do you feel you get sufficient information about your child's progress at school?
- If there was one additional thing that the school could do to make a real difference to yourselves and your child, what would it be?

There have been many things to celebrate this half term, starting with Spooky Spectacular on our first day back and continuing with activities and events that we hope your children have enjoyed, learnt through and connected with. In addition to the irresistible learning opportunities that we aim to provide every day, we are always keen to extend our reach and we are pleased to have been able to put on events such as the Family Conference, Riverside Connect, Happy Café, Riverside Lounge and our first coffee afternoon for families at Riverside Phoenix. In recent seasonal events, we held our Christmas Fair after a couple of years' COVID break and we were delighted to share [Wish upon a Star](#), our bespoke, immersive Christmas experience with all 23 Primary classes across four sites. We also performed four staff variety shows, featuring both Primary and Secondary pupil choirs and our newly-formed, wonderful [Family Choir](#).

To end, it gives me great pleasure to share our staff [Makaton Sing and Sign 2022](#). I hope you and your children enjoy it and apologies in advance if, once you have heard it, you can't stop singing (and signing) it!

We know that the Christmas period looks very different for everyone and whatever the next couple of weeks bring for you, I hope they are filled with special moments.

Wishing you all a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and we look forward to seeing your children again in 2023.



Steve Solomons  
Headteacher