

17th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Welcome to the Autumn Term 2021
At Riverside School.**

We have been delighted to welcome everyone to the beginning of the new academic year and the children have settled into their new classes really well. We will be updating you every two weeks with news, pictures and dates for your diary via Parentmail.

We have already been able to resume some of our wider curriculum and pastoral activities such as assemblies, music lessons, swimming and sports clubs- to hear singing again around the school grounds is a very happy sound!



Thank you – in memory of Sarah Emmott



Our school community has been deeply saddened by the news of Sarah's death last week and we have needed to take time to reflect and remember Sarah, both in our classes and together as a school. Thank you to you all for your kind words and messages and support for everyone at this time. We have lit a candle in her memory in each assembly this week and we will continue to make our memory books and jars for those in her class and those close to Sarah. The staff and children have been supported by the sensitive support from our local counselling team from Just B. We will continue to access this support for as long as we need it- if you or your child need anything, please do let me know and we can arrange for someone to talk this through. Over the next few weeks, we will be talking to Sarah's family and we will let you know how we will be making a memorial for Sarah at Riverside. Lots of people have asked how to contribute and we will let you know as soon as the plan is decided. *Miss Woodward*

Nothing can ever prepare us for times like these but we are so proud of the staff and children as they have shown great compassion and resilience when dealing with their own emotions as well as those of the children. Please just talk to us whenever you feel you may need support.

Miss Woodward and Mr Yapp.



Staffing News-Vacancy

We are currently starting our recruitment process for our Deputy Headteacher post at Riverside to start January 2022. [Please click here for more details on our website.](#)



Term Date and Dates for your diary.

Due to the adjustment for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in May half term, it has been necessary to correct our term dates for 2021-2022- The summer term ends for children on July 22nd with the training day moving from April 8th 2022 to July 25th 2022 for staff training. [Click here for the final version of the dates are on our website here.](#)

Term dates 2022-2023 to follow.

Parent /teacher consultations

We are busy planning Parent/Teacher consultation dates for this Autumn term and we are delighted that this can return to an "in person" event according to the current guidelines. We will notify you around dates and how to book in the next newsletter. If you prefer a virtual appointment, these will also be available.

Dates for your diary:

October 7th 2021: Individual Photos

October 15th 2021: Harvest Festival

Thursday October 21st: last day of half term

October 22nd: Training day for staff



Polite reminders

Parking: As families are all accessing the site at similar times now, parking and traffic has increased. Where possible please walk/scoot to school and respect our local residents' parking areas and gardens.

Nut – free school: We are a nut-free school so please do not include nuts in snacks/packed lunches as we have several children who have severe nut allergies across the school. Thank you

Important Covid-19 reminders

Please can I take this opportunity to outline the routines and the differences between the type of test you might require and reporting these to school:

This is the official public health advice that schools/families must adhere to:

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you have any of these symptoms, get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if you have coronavirus and stay at home until you get your result.

It is important that you let school know if you or any member of your household have symptoms and are booking a test so we can plan any further action if required. If you are worried about a possible symptom or what to do, please do ring us- we have rapid access to advice from Public Health to advise and support you.

Lateral Flow Tests (home tests) should **NOT** be used to determine if you are positive if you have symptoms- you do need to book a PCR test please.

Families can access the lateral flow tests for regular testing for family members who do **NOT** have symptoms. This enables the close monitoring of positive cases as well as the reduction of transmission in our school community. **If your family member's lateral flow test is positive, they will need to book a PCR test via the online booking system and let the school know ASAP. If this is out of hours, please use the dedicated out of hours Covid19@rs.starmat.uk address and we will contact you for further discussions and advice.**

Helpful links:

When you need to self-isolate:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

Information for ordering or collecting lateral flow tests for your family:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

To book an online PCR test:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Thank you all again for your continued support.

Miss Woodward

Please do get in touch if you have any queries or concerns.

For general queries and information: Schooloffice@rs.starmat.uk

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