

Dear Families,

It is with real pride that I present to you *The Riverside Way*. This is a culmination of many months debating where the school is now and where we wish to be in the future. We have involved pupils, families, staff and governors in this process and this has enabled us to draw upon expertise, experience and a shared commitment to building a better future.

At Riverside School, our core values guide everything we do.

**Aspiration Resilience Creativity Humility Integrity Trust Enthusiasm Courage Teamwork**

They make up the acronym **ARCHITECT** to signify our passion for designing and building a school that will make an indelible mark on the world for generations to come; a school that will impact positively on everyone who enters, on people we may never meet, and in ways we may never know.

We will continue our relentless drive for excellence, because our pupils and their families deserve nothing less. We will improve outcomes at an individual, school and societal level and we will judge our success on the extent to which we transform lives, both within, and outside Riverside School.

We see our pupils' time at Riverside School as just the first part of their journey and we want them to leave us at the age of 19 as confident, lifelong learners. We also want them to remember their time with us with great fondness, with memories of life-enriching experiences and enduring relationships.

*The Riverside Way*.

Welcome aboard.

Our Mission	To transform our children's lives and the lives of their families			
Our Vision	To inspire breakthroughs in the way society enables children with complex needs to find true fulfilment			
Our Pledges	We will equip our pupils with a bespoke package of profoundly personalised support so that when they leave school, they succeed, flourish and leave their mark on society.	We will inspire our pupils, families and the wider community to make the seemingly unachievable achievable through the Performing Arts.	We will ensure current and future pupils make remarkable progress by attracting and training the highest calibre special educators at Riverside School and beyond.	We will influence the world of specialist education by creating an innovative curriculum framework based around The Pursuit of Happiness.

*Be All That You Can Be*

Steve Solomons  
Headteacher



# Class News



This month, we have been very busy working hard on our topics as well as many other exciting learning opportunities. Here's what we have been up to in our classes:

The **Zebbras** have been really busy celebrating the OLYMPICS. We have made Olympic rings by squirting paint and we really enjoyed making our giant Olympic torch! We are also getting ready for Sports Day and have been practicing different races including running very fast in the sprint, water races and fancy dress races. GO TEAM SWEDEN!

In **Mars** class we had a fantastic time during Big Arts Week and really enjoyed working together with pupils from lots of different classes. We made musical instruments with the Elephants, danced with Mercury and Jupiter and made photo frames with the Penguins.



**Penguins** have had a trip to Chessington this month as well as a trip on the Cable Cars in Greenwich. All of the boys in Penguins Class thoroughly enjoyed gliding across the River Thames and there were lots of smiles and giggles from the lovely Penguins.

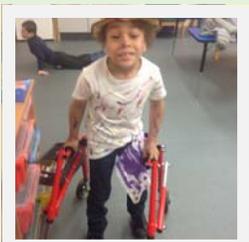
**Venus** class have been enjoying lots of lovely trips out in the nice(ish) weather. We particularly enjoyed our recent trip to the Greenwich Observatory where we saw an amazing show about space!



**Elephants, Koalas and Tigers** celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday by making sandwiches and cakes and then having a party to celebrate!



**Koalas** really enjoyed 'Big Arts Week'. We took part in lots of creative activities throughout the week and we enjoyed working with different classes. We created our own dance pieces in small groups and performed them. We had fun on art day making decorations for the classroom.



## Camping in the Great British Weather!

On Thursday 23rd June, a group of pupils from across Secondary and 6th Form phases went on a camping adventure to Blackland Farm in East Grinstead. We arrived just before lunchtime and, as it was unfortunately raining, we ate our sandwiches in our marquee, which was also going to be our home for the night. Our first activity was Bungee Trampolining which was great fun. Lots of pupils practiced jumping really high! We then split into two groups with one group going Kayaking. Poor Lilly, TA from Neptune, fell in the water and it did make us all laugh! The second group played Aero Ball, scoring lots of goals. We had a fun evening back at camp, singing songs, eating pizza and relaxing before bedtime. We didn't let the chilly night air and thunderstorms dampen our spirits!

The next morning, we packed up camp and headed down to the swimming pool where we splashed around and had fun before heading back to school, ready for a good night's sleep and the weekend. Staff and pupils are looking forward to the next residential adventure next year!



Thank you to the families who have already completed our Governing Board Family Survey. If the short survey has passed you by, please do visit: <https://surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6XXLVX3> today. It is smart phone friendly! We'd like to hear from everyone to ensure Riverside is an amazing school for all of our pupils.

It is also that time of year when we say a fond farewell to some of our pupils as they leave Riverside for their next educational placement. If this is you, you will be getting a very short **Exit Survey** before the end of term. We very much look forward to hearing your experiences of Riverside and the difference our school has made to you all.

## Fundraising for Teenage Cancer Trust:



In September, three of our Teaching Assistants; Emily Turner, Sophie Turner and Amy Parker, will be walking 25KM across London to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust which is a charity that is very close to our hearts.

If you would like to read more about their fundraising or to sponsor them, please click here: <http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Emily-Amy16>

## Let's Get Muddy!

A Riverside Staff Team have come together to raise funds for Cancer Research by entering the 'Pretty Muddy' Race for Life on 11th September.



If you would like to sponsor any of the team, you can find details of individuals taking part in the following link.

Good luck everyone!

<https://www.justgiving.com/teams/riverside-school>



Thank you to families who joined us at Riverside Connect this month.

Our next event is on 12th July, with a focus on 'Experiences Of A Parent Of A Child With Special Needs'. We do hope you can join us for this valuable opportunity to share experiences with other families.

For more information about Riverside Connect events, and photos of past events, please visit the Working Together section/Engagement with Families page of our website [www.riversideschool.org.uk](http://www.riversideschool.org.uk)



**Further details for any specific events will follow**

- 01/07/16 Primary SPC Sports Day
- 05/07/16 SPC Parents' Evening
- 06/07/16 Family MakaChat
- 06/07/16 Beckenham Parents' Evening
- 12/07/16 Riverside Connect
- 13/07/16 Riverside Dreamers - The Musical
- 14/07/16 SPC Leavers' Assembly
- 15/07/16 Beckenham Sports Day
- 15/07/16 SPC Leavers' Prom

**Wheelchair Bike**

Further to our sponsored Tri-Athlon last year with funds raised towards a wheelchair bike, we are delighted that it is on its way. We look forward to seeing pupils benefit from this wonderful new resource.



**Summer Fair**

Our Summer Fair was a huge success and the rain held off so everyone could enjoy themselves. The 'pie face' and 'mocktails' were especially popular. Thank you to everyone who supported the event and for the generous donations - we raised nearly £2,000. Congratulations to Alison Adams who won the 1st prize in our raffle and will be off to see 'Marvels' live at the O2.



**Thank You Orpington Rotary Club**

We are delighted to have been successful in a grant application through the Orpington Rotary Club and will be adding to the wonderful facilities available to our pupils soon. An enormous thank you for their very generous support to our Rotary friends.

**KeepMe**

Our friends at KeepMe have pledged a portion of the sales of one of their products to Riverside School. We have already started receiving these donations which will be going towards updating our Early Years area starting with some new playground markings. Thank you KeepMe - we are very grateful for your generosity.



**Sun Safety**

Whilst we are all looking forward to some pleasant weather this Summer Term, it is important that we are prepared for any hot weather.

The NHS sun safety advice recommends using a sunscreen with both UVA and UVB protection and choosing a high factor sunscreen with a high level of UVA protection. Many brands are formulated specifically for babies and young children.

So that pupils can continue to enjoy activities outside of the classroom, without the risk of possible sun damage, please supply a named sun hat and some sun cream for your child (in a named container) so that it can be applied when needed.

# Big Arts Week in Photos

