

20 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Another school year comes to an end, and what an eventful year it has been.

The sudden emergence of COVID-19 earlier this year meant that we were required to close the school from Friday 20th March, except for the children of Key Workers and our vulnerable children. Thankfully, we have been able to reopen from early June for children in Reception, Year One and Year Six, with home learning continuing for children who did not return.

I am so enormously grateful to all of the school staff for the positive attitude that they have displayed throughout these unprecedented and demanding times. They worked tirelessly to ensure that the school was able to reopen safely as soon as we were permitted, and to adapt the teaching programme to reflect the circumstances, with a big focus on outdoor learning. They have also done a terrific job in maintaining a home learning program for the children who have not returned to school and in keeping in regular contact with each child. My thanks also to you for the support that you have given to your children, and congratulations to the children for managing so well in such unsettling circumstances.

We are of course hopeful that the school can fully reopen in September, in line with the Government guidance. Whatever happens, you can be sure that the school will continue to do the very best that it can for your children.

The unexpected closure in March was closely followed by a change in school leadership, with an Interim Headship Team comprising of Nell Webb (Acting Headteacher), Samantha Leir and Sophie McGeoch, working closely with our Senior School Improvement Advisor, Jo Sullivan-Lyons. They have been working extremely hard, both in managing the school through COVID-19 as well as conducting a full and thorough review of all aspects of the school. The Governors have been extremely pleased with the work that they have carried out to date, and you will be hearing more about their future plans for the school in the Autumn Term. I am confident that we have a very exciting future.

The Governors are very grateful to everyone who responded to our Parent Survey in March; a very good response rate in difficult circumstances. We have carefully analysed your feedback and have conveyed the key findings to the Interim Headship Team, whilst ensuring the anonymity of individual responses.

The feedback is that we have a strong school community. Strategies for pupil well-being and personal development are robust and you feel able to raise and address issues with the school. Views on extra-curricular life of the school are very positive, with plenty of events and an active PTA.

A number of areas for development were identified and the school is committed to making some changes in order to fully address them.

These matters include increasing the academic expectation for all children, and ensuring that both academic expectations and performance are clearly communicated to you consistently across the school. You are keen to see more communications from the school, regarding the curriculum as well as planned events. It is also clear that there is more work to do in the school in following up on issues which are raised, particularly those concerning behaviour.



KEW RIVERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

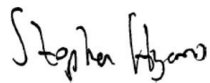
The Interim Headship Team and the Senior Leadership Team are preparing the School Development Plan for next year, which will aim to address these issues as well as to continue the development process for the school. You will be given details of this plan early in the Autumn term.

Finally, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who has donated their precious time and energy to the school in so many various ways throughout the year. Your generous efforts play a critical role in establishing the strong, caring, and inclusive community we have at Kew Riverside.

Should you wish to contact the governors, please email us at governors@kewriverside.richmond.sch.uk.

I wish you and your children a relaxing and well-earned summer break.

With best wishes,



Stephen Hyams
Chair of the Governing Body