

Risca Primary School

Autumn Newsletter No 6

Friday 23rd October 2020



Hi Mums and Dads,

Just a quick update before we head off into half term. I know that due to the new lockdown that the half term is certainly not the half term that we expected, but all of the staff at Risca Primary School hope that you manage to have a bit of a break, even if it is just relaxing locally, and taking exercise in your local area. We are certainly looking forward to seeing all of the children back after half term, as by now I am sure that you will be aware that Primary Schools are not affected by the national lockdown and will be open after half term as usual.

Thank You

Can I first of all thank you for all of the support and understanding that you have given to the school over the last half term. I know that we are all currently living in challenging times, and that we have all had to adjust to new routines, new timings, and different methods of communication. However, I know that all of the staff would want me to thank you for your patience and understanding. It really does make a difference to teachers when they can see how hard we are all working as a community to adhere to our new routines, which are designed to keep everyone in our community safe and well.

Catering

You will know that we are now able to start serving boxed meals after half term. These will be served in the classrooms. As a reminder, in order that we can count the money in a controlled manner, and adhere to the Local Authority risk assessment for counting monies, we kindly ask that all monies are sent into school on a MONDAY ONLY, in a clearly labelled envelope. Please label the envelope with your child's NAME, the AMOUNT of money sent in, and the DAYS that your child requires a school lunch. Please do not bring monies directly to the office, as this will unnecessarily increase the numbers of people in our foyer when we are doing our best to keep this area clear for safety purposes. Please send the money in via the class teacher. Many thanks.

Unfortunately we will be unable to open our Breakfast Club, as we are unable to safely run a Breakfast Club whilst operating under Welsh Government guidelines. You will have already received a newsletter explaining our detailed reasons for not opening the Club. Please be

reassured that we will review this decision regularly and should the situation change we will inform you as soon as possible.

Parent Meetings

This term we are substituting our face to face parent meetings with telephone appointments. We are currently arranging times for telephone appointments for parents evenings. Additionally, you should have by now started to receive samples of your child's work through See-Saw. This will give you a good picture of how your child is progressing in school this year. If you have not yet had an appointment through see saw, please don't worry. We will be sending out the remainder of the appointments immediately after half term.

Homework and Home Learning

Next term we will continue to send out our regular homework via See-Saw. This is in our new format of blended learning, which is designed to support you and your child to become familiar with our new blended learning format which we will use in case of whole or partial school closure.

We are now beginning to monitor pupil engagement in our blended learning opportunities, to ensure that all children are engaging. It is absolutely vital that we ensure that **all** children are participating, as we need to ensure that all pupils are able to access their blended learning programmes should they find themselves in a situation whereby they are unable to attend school.

Can I once again urge everyone to have a go at our home learning tasks. If pupils are regularly not participating in blended learning tasks, we will contact you to discuss how we can support you and child to access our tasks. Please be reassured that all schools in Wales are pursuing full participation in blended learning, as the Welsh Government is eager that schools put in place systems to ensure that the disruption to childrens' education is minimised when schools or classes need to close. Many thanks.

Flu Inoculation

As usual, this year our pupils from Reception to Year 6 will be offered the opportunity to be inoculated against the flu. This will take place in school on the 17th November.

Correction

Please note that there was an error on our last newsletter. On the last day of school this term, school will close at the **usual time**, to allow our staggered end to the day to proceed as usual.

Emergency Telephone Number

Should you or your child need to contact the school in an emergency over the holiday we have an emergency telephone number. Please note that this is for emergency use only, for instance if you need to inform us if you or your child have tested positive for Covid 19. Many thanks.
Telephone 07376 276918

And Finally

I am sure that you would want to join me in thanking all of the staff in school who have worked so hard to make this half term as normal as possible for all of our children. They have seamlessly managed to adapt to new routines, new classroom layouts, new methods of teaching, and importantly, managed to do this all with a smile on their faces. I would also wish that they have a good break and have an opportunity to recharge their batteries to get ready for the run up to Christmas.

Useful Dates

Half Term

Don't forget that we are rapidly approaching half term. As a reminder, school is closing on Friday 23rd October and re-opening on Monday 2nd November.

Training Days

We have two training days scheduled at present. These are Monday 16th November and Monday 4th January 2021

Christmas Holiday

School closes for Christmas on Friday 18th December at the usual time, and then re-opens in the New Year on Tuesday 5th January.

Many thanks, stay safe,

Mrs Arthur and Staff.