

# Risca Primary School

## Spring Term Newsletter No 9

Monday 8th February 2021



Dear Mums and Dads,

By now I am sure that most of you will be aware of the Minister's announcement on Friday, where he signalled that it was the Welsh Government's intention for all Foundation Phase pupils to return to full time school after half term. This was unexpected, and before finalising arrangements for the return to school, we await some outstanding clarification on the proposed return. As soon as I have any concrete information on return dates, protocols and procedures I will let you know. Currently, we understand that it is proposed that this is a phased return to school, for our youngest pupils, over the week beginning the 22nd February. However, before making final decisions, and drawing up our individual school plan we await a few more details. Please be assured that as soon as we have the necessary information we will send out another newsletter which will detail exact return to school information, and we kindly ask that you bear with us until we are able to give you full return details. Many thanks.

I think that it is important to note, that whilst the Minister is now indicating that a return to school is imminent, that this does not indicate that Alert Level 4 restrictions are easing. Although, after half term we will have more pupils through our door, it is clear that this does not indicate that pupils will be able to mix with other pupils or other families outside of the school setting. It was clear from the Minister's briefing that the 'stay at home' law will continue, as will the law on not 'visit(ing) other households or meet(ing) other people you do not live with'.

I am sure that we can all work together to ensure that the return to school is as safe as possible for all children. As a school we are currently reviewing all Welsh Government guidance to ensure that we are doing all that we possibly can to make our environment safe for when pupils return.

This week, once again, our big shout out has to go to all of the children in Mr Bills' class, who have topped the charts for pupil engagement. This week, 95% of Mr Bills' class were engaged in blended learning. That is amazing!!! Well done to all of you. Closely behind on 86% was Miss Ryan's class, and not far behind that was Mrs Thomas' class. Well done to all of you for working so hard. I know that your teachers are really thrilled.

Don't forget we still have our certificates on offer. Well done to all of you who got a silver certificate this week, look out for our Golden Certificate which we have now decided to launch after half term.

Immediately after half term we will be changing our topic for our Junior children. Our new topic will focus on Spring Changes. Additionally, please look out for some very special activities that we have planned for the first week after half term, as we build up to St David's day on the week beginning the 22nd February.

We also have a super Valentine's Day community task planned for all of our children, which we hope will help lift the spirits of our community. Keep an eye out on See-Saw and on Twitter for details which will be posted later in the week.

Don't forget that should your child have a positive coronavirus test whilst in school please contact us as soon as possible, via See-Saw, e-mail or telephone in order that we can start self isolation procedures immediately, and where possible limit any potential transmission, Many thanks.

Once again can I thank you for your patience and understanding, and thank all of you who continue to work with us to do the best for all of our children in these difficult times. Don't forget we are still at the end of a telephone or e-mail, please get in touch with us should you need any advice or support.

Many thanks

Mrs Arthur and Staff