

Risca Primary School

Spring Term Newsletter No 13

Monday 8th March 2021



Dear Mums and Dads,

I am sure that you will all be aware by now that for our primary school children this will be the last week of blended learning for this term, as we get ready for our Key Stage 2 pupils to return to school on Monday the 15th March. I know that the teachers are all looking forward to seeing the childrens' faces, and are looking forward to getting back into the usual school routine. Please be aware that the return to school for our Key Stage 2 children is not a staggered return and therefore we are expecting all classes from Year 3 to 6 to return to school on Monday 15th March.

A Big Thank You

Firstly, can I say a big 'thank you' to all in our community who have worked so hard over the last few months to support our pupils through these challenging times. I know the staff have been really grateful for all of the support that has been given at home to the children. We also know that in many cases this has been a big family effort, so a big thank you to all mums, dads, grandads, grandmas and big brothers and sisters who have all supported our children throughout this time. We are all very grateful.

Transition Back Into School.

As we prepare for a whole scale return for all of our children, I am sure that you will appreciate the need for us to reorganise the school in readiness for Monday morning. This will naturally mean that teachers will have to begin to switch from preparing for remote learning to in class face to face learning. In order to facilitate this we will be offering an alternative blended learning experience on Friday. On Friday, we will ask pupils to select items from our blended learning website, which will give teachers the time and space to prepare for a full return.

Communication With School

As more pupils are now returning to school, we are aware that it is possible that we may see a rise in the number of suspected or confirmed Covid 19 cases in school. Therefore it is important that we re-establish good protocols for reporting either suspected or confirmed Covid cases,

and we want everyone to be aware of the methods of communication with the school, whether it be in school time, evenings or weekends. As from the end of this week, during working school hours please notify the office if your child has a confirmed or a suspected case of Covid 19. If school is closed please notify us through your child's See-Saw account. As we are now using See-Saw in the evenings and weekends as a notification for Covid 19, we would be grateful if you could refrain from using See-Saw for general messages to the teacher. If you have general queries about school matters please now contact the school office. Many thanks.

Routines

Please be aware that when we return to school we will continue to use the same morning and afternoon routines as were used before Christmas. As a reminder, Year 2,3 and 6 will use the Year 3 yard at the beginning and end of the day; Year R,1,4 and 5 will use the main Junior yard, and the Nursery children will enter and leave school via the main Nursery yard gate.

We will continue to adhere to our staggered start, finish and lunchtimes, and pupil bubbles will be maintained throughout the day. Start times, and finish are detailed below:

Nursery pupils: 8.50-11.50

Foundation Phase: 9.10 - 2.50

Year 3 and 4: 9.00 - 3.10

Year 5 and 6: 8.50 - 3.00

School Uniform

When pupils return to school we hope that they will be able to return in their school uniform. However, we are aware that some children may have had a growth spurt and that it may be challenging to replace school uniform items at the moment. If this applies to your child, please don't worry. We absolutely understand that you may have to substitute items of clothing whilst shops remain closed. Don't forget that within our community we also have two providers who now stock second hand/recycled school uniform. We all know that often children grow out of uniform when it is barely used, and it is great that we have two outlets in our community who are recycling nearly new items. These are the Eco Friendly Store on Risca High Street and the RCV Charity (www.rcvuk.org) who also run a school uniform recycle shop.

Catering

We will continue to serve hot meals next week. Please send your child's dinner money in, on Monday, in an envelope labelled with your child's name, class and days that they require lunch. We are unable to accept loose change which is not properly labelled. This enables us to adhere to the risk assessment for handling monies, provided to us by the Local Authority. Many thanks.

Fit and Well

Once again, just a reminder that presently we are only able to accept children into school if they are **100% fit and well**. This is in accordance with the advice issued by PHW and the Aneurin Bevan Health Board. Should your child be at all unwell, we would kindly ask that you keep them home, and should children present as unwell in school we will ask for them to be picked up at the office. I am sure that you will understand that presently we are very keen to ensure that all in our community are kept as safe as possible, whilst the vaccination roll out continues. Many thanks.

Shielding Staff

I know that you will all be aware that as a result of the latest lockdown, the need to shield has once again been necessary for some of our community. Therefore we are in a situation whereby not all of our staff will be able to return to school next week, and therefore we will have a small number of changes to our staffing structure from Monday. Should this affect your child's class, we will notify you via See-Saw within the next few days.

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. We look forward to seeing you all bright and early next Monday.

Many thanks

Mrs Arthur and Staff