

# Risca Primary School

## Spring Term Newsletter No 15

Monday 22nd March 2021



Dear Mums and Dads,

It seems rather strange to be talking about an Easter holiday, when our Junior children have only just returned to school, but I sincerely hope that over the Easter break you can relax and travel for longer distances for some well earned rest and recreation. I think that we can all feel the temperature begin to rise. It was lovely last week to see our children playing in the sunshine on the yard.

### **Morning Routines**

If you brought your child to school today you will have noticed that we have returned to our original routines of letting the children walk upstairs to their classrooms independently. This proved to be successful and it ensured that our yard was not as congested as last week. I note that we had a few phone calls last week about the congestion on the yards and I hope that from now on, by adopting our usual routines, the issues in the mornings should be resolved.

### **Junior Children**

Just as a reminder our doors will open 10 mins before school starts in the morning. Therefore we will start allowing Years 5 and 6 into the building at 8.40, and Years 3 and 4 into the building at 8.50. This will give the children time to walk up the stairs safely and sensibly, in plenty of time to start lessons.

In the morning we will close our junior doors at 9.05. Please make every effort to be on time as we really want to avoid large numbers of pupils entering school through the front doors, as we are really keen to ensure that pupils from different bubbles are kept apart.

### **Infant Children**

Our Infant doors will open at 9.00 every morning, and close at 9.10. Can I ask that all parents kindly leave the yards as soon as you have dropped your child off. This will ensure that our yards are safe and free from congestion.

### **Afternoon Routines.**

By now I am sure that you will all know that we continue to operate a staggered finish to the end of the day for all of our children, to avoid a large build up of parents on the yard. I understand that for some parents this may involve a short wait at the end of the day, but under the current circumstances this is unavoidable, as we continue to follow clear guidance on school safety from the Welsh Government.

Can I please urge you to carefully monitor your children at the end of the day when you are waiting for additional siblings to leave school. Last week at the end of the day our school staff had to manage some unacceptable behaviours. As examples, we had to ask children to come down from trees; ask children to stop standing on picnic tables and ask children not to climb over the walls of our outdoor classroom. We also had to stop some very rough play. I am sure that you will agree that it is very important that children leave the site in a safe and orderly manner and therefore I would ask all parents to kindly keep all children under close supervision at the end of the day.

### **Red Nose Day.**

A big thank you to all of you who kindly supported our efforts for Red Nose Day on Friday. We raised a massive £356.46 which will go off to this very worthwhile cause.

### **Attendance**

Please be aware that we continue to adhere to the guidance from the Aneurin Bevan Health Board which clearly asks parents NOT to 'send your child to school if they are unwell **even if you are not sure that it is coronavirus.**' I know that this may be confusing and can I thank those of you who have called the office to enquire as to whether your child can attend school. I also know that this is not our usual protocol, as we would always encourage pupils to attend school if they were only a little unwell. However, we are in unusual times, and in order to ensure that our school community is healthy we are strictly adhering to the advice from the Health Board. Therefore, we are unable to accept children into school who show **any signs** of being unwell, and we would kindly ask that any unwell pupils are kept home from school until they are 100% fit and well. If your child is unwell, and you are unsure whether a sibling can attend, please phone the office and we will be happy to give you advice. Many thanks.

### **Looking Ahead**

It really has been fantastic to see all of our children back in school over the last few weeks and we are keeping our fingers crossed that any future disruptions due to Covid will be kept to a minimum. However, in line with all schools we are now reviewing our blended learning protocols to evaluate what went well and how we can improve. With that in mind we will shortly be sending out a blended learning survey for parents. It is a very short survey and will take less

than a minute to complete. Can I please ask that you have a look at the survey and complete if you have a few minutes spare between now and Friday. It will allow us to move forward effectively and refine our systems where necessary for the future. Many thanks.

### **Book Week**

This week the children in Years 3 and 4 are going to meet the award-winning children's author, Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara. This online event is part of our drive to get children really excited about books and reading. Maria will be giving the children a whistle-stop tour of Europe to talk about some of the people she has written about in her book series: Little People; Big Dreams.

If you would like to find out more, the author's website is <https://littlepeoplebigdreams.com>

### **Holiday Dates**

Don't forget that we break up for Easter on Friday, at our usual staggered finishing times. School will then resume on Monday 12th April.

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.

Many thanks

Mrs Arthur and Staff