

Risca Primary School

Summer Term Newsletter No 2

Friday 14th May 2021



Dear Mums and Dads,

I'm not sure where all of this rain is coming from, and I bet, like us you are all hoping for a change in the weather and for some lovely Spring sunshine! I know that we always prefer sunshine in school, as it allows our children a chance to get out for a breath of fresh air at breaktime and at lunch time. Here's hoping for a bit of a heatwave in the next few weeks!

Congratulations

Firstly, can I offer my congratulations to Mrs Farley who has successfully secured the permanent Deputy Headship position within our school. I know that all of the staff are really pleased with her appointment. Mrs Farley has worked in our school for the last 17 years, and has been a member of our Senior Leadership Team for the last 6 years. I am really pleased to be able to continue to work with Mrs Farley, in her role as deputy head as we take the school on the path to the new and exciting Curriculum for Wales.

School Uniform

As you know our school uniform is now stocked by Darren Morgan in Crosskeys and I know that a number of parents are currently in the process of purchasing new uniform for your children. Can I please ask that you are patient if trying to contact Darren's store. We have recently spoken to Darren and he reports that the staff at the store are working flat out to meet current demand, whilst still trying to adhere to social distancing protocols which all shops continue to adhere to. Should you need to contact the store to enquire about uniform, you can either do so in person - the shop is currently open between 10am and 1pm, or by telephone on 01495 271995. Should you have any problems getting through by telephone, Darren has asked that you leave a message, including your telephone number, and staff will return your call as soon as possible. Many thanks for your patience.

Transition

As you will be aware it is the time when we would be traditionally thinking about transition for our pupils. This includes transition into Nursery, Reception, Year 3 and Year 7. I am sure that you will already understand that it is very likely that transition will not follow our usual routines,

which involves parent meetings and movement between schools and classes, due to the current Covid 19 restrictions. You will be aware that we still have to adhere to strict protocols as outlined by our Local Authority risk assessment, and that our priority remains to keep our pupils and community safe in the current climate. We are currently finalising our transition protocols for this year, and these will be with you shortly. It is likely that we will follow similar protocols as last year where we adapted our routines to make them Covid safe and secure. Watch out for more information about this in the near future.

Year 6 Leavers Celebrations

We are currently planning our celebrations for our Year 6 leavers. Watch this space! I am sure that you will understand that we will not be able to follow our usual routines of 'in person' leavers' concerts, but staff are currently planning some alternative activities to ensure that we give our Year 6 pupils the best send off that we possibly can under the current restrictions.

Communication With School

As more pupils are now returning to school and the restrictions on our community are lifted, 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. Presently, 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 during evenings and weekends to notify us of positive cases of 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.

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, the Local Authority 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.

We are really pleased that the Aneurin Bevan Health Board have now adapted their policy for testing for Covid 19. Now, anyone can get a test for a range of symptoms. These include, change in taste or smell, high temperature, excessive tiredness, new continuous cough, shortness of breath, persistent headache, flu-like symptoms, aching muscles, change of symptoms since your last test. Following a meeting this morning, all schools have been advised to ask parents to be extra vigilant during this time of easing of the lockdown. We would urge all

parents to get pupils tested if they show any of the above signs in order that we keep our schools Covid free, and minimise the spread of the virus. Many thanks

P.E Kit

As you know we are currently asking pupils to wear their PE kit on PE days. Can I please ask that all pupils come appropriately and modestly dressed for PE. We have a small number of pupils attending school in low cut crop tops which are not modest. This is concerning and it causing some embarrassment for some of our pupils. Please could I request that pupils wear a sensible t-shirt for PE and not low cut crop tops. I am sure that you will appreciate that it is important for all pupils, to be dressed appropriately at all times when in school, to ensure that others in the class can feel comfortable and not embarrassed throughout the day.

Parents Evening

This term we will be holding parents evenings on Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th May. Your child's teacher will have contacted you by now to give you a time and day for your consultation. Look out for the samples of your child's work which we will send home prior to the consultation. This will give you an idea of your child's progress to date. The samples will be sent home via your child's see-saw account.

Fundraising for the Dog's Trust

You may have heard about a new fundraising initiative run by the Dog's Trust which is due to take place in the Autumn term. The Dog's Trust is inviting schools to take part by decorating a giant Snoopy. The finished Snoopys will then be exhibited around Cardiff in the Autumn. To take part we will need to raise some funds for the Dog's Trust and therefore our last day of the Summer term will be an 'own clothes day' if you are able to make a small donation on the day we will put that towards the fee for securing a Snoopy for us to decorate! Many thanks.

Important Dates

Parents evening: Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th May
LATCH Charity "Own Clothes Day": Friday 28th May
Half Term: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June.
Snoopy Day: 'Own Clothes Day' Thursday 15th July

Training Days: Friday 16th July, Monday 19th July, Tuesday 20th July:

School closes for the Summer holiday: Thursday 15th July

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. Many thanks

Mrs Arthur and Staff