

Risca Primary School

Summer Term Newsletter No 6

Tuesday 13th July 2021

Dear Mums and Dads,



Already it's the last week, I don't think that any of us can believe that we are already at the end of term. This week the children are having a super week. All of them are involved in lovely sporting activities and are learning all about 'being healthy and fit'. Tomorrow we are looking forward to our Year 6 leavers day, where we have a fun filled day planned for them, to give them the very best send off to their new school. Many thanks to the PTA for supporting us with this event.

Next Year

I have a meeting later on this afternoon to discuss the latest Welsh Government guidance for schools which will come into force in September. Although the guidance has been published there are a number of issues that need further clarification. I will write to you before the end of term to give you as many details as possible before the summer holiday. However, it is our understanding that staggered start and finish times will now be ending and we will go back to our original start and finish times. These are:-

8.50 am to 11.50 am

12.50 pm to 3.10 pm

Please note that we **start teaching** at 8.50 am and therefore to ensure that all children are ready to learn they need to be sitting down, ready by 8.50. To support pupils to have an easy entry to school we open our doors at 8.40 am. This gives all children 10 minutes to enter school safely and take their coats. Please can I ask that we all make a super effort in September to be on time, so that all children come through the correct doors. Mrs Wilmore, our clerk, is always busy in the morning, and at times our office is really busy which means that Mrs Wilmore is not always at her desk.

Transition

Last week we thoroughly enjoyed meeting all of our new parents from Nursery, Reception and Year 3. Thank goodness the sun came out, and we could meet our lovely new children in our Nursery garden. It was lovely to see so many smiley faces. We can't wait to see them again in September. Today we are letting all of our other children know which teacher they will have next year. You will be aware that our structure for next year is:

- Nursery: Mrs Williams
- Reception: Miss Arthur
- Year 1: Mrs Skellam and Mrs Timms
- Year 2: Miss Ryan
- Year 3A: Miss Gooding
- Year 3B: Mrs Lewis
- Year 4A: Mrs Rees
- Year 4B: Mrs Thomas
- Year 5A: Miss Bishop/Mrs Rees-Smith
- Year 5B: Mr Bills
- Year 6A: Mr Fitton
- Year 6B: Miss Bird

When the children move up next year they will be with the following teacher:-

Pupils in this class, this year will go to.....this teacher next year
Rising 3's	Nursery: Mrs Williams
Nursery: Mrs Williams	Reception: Miss Arthur
Reception : Mrs Skellam and Mrs Timms	Year 1: Mrs Skellam and Mrs Timms
Year 1: Miss Ryan	Year 2: Miss Ryan
Year 2: Mrs Lewis	Year 3A: Miss Gooding
Year 2 : Ty Isaf pupils	Year 3B: Mrs Lewis
Year 3A: Miss Gooding	Classes are being split: Children are being informed today of their new teacher. Teachers will either be: Year 4A: Mrs Rees, or Year 4B: Mrs Thomas. Both teachers have already been down to their new classes to introduce themselves to the children.
Year 3B: Miss Bishop/Mrs Rees Smith	
Year 4A: Mrs Rees	Year 5A: Miss Bishop/Mrs Rees-Smith

Year 4B: Mrs Thomas	Year 5B: Mr Bills
Year 5B: Mrs Bosley	Year 6A: Mr Fitton
Year 5A: Miss Bird	Year 6B: Miss Bird

Don't forget, as many of you will be aware, as a school we also work alongside other schools and the University of South Wales to share our practice within the wider community. Therefore some of our teachers have wider roles, which are in addition to their teaching role. To support these teachers we have employed an additional teacher Mrs Bosley. Mrs Bosley will be working both in Mr Bill's class and Mrs Rees' class. Both Mr Bills and Mrs Rees are our Senior Leaders, and work with the EAS to provide School to School support for other schools within our area. Mrs Rees also works closely with the University of South Wales to support student teachers within the area. Mrs Bosley will therefore provide management cover for Mr Bills and Mrs Rees throughout the week as needed on a job share basis.

Additionally, Miss Bishop is also on maternity leave, and will remain on maternity leave for most of next year. In the meantime, Mr Hooper who has worked in Year 6 and Year 4 this year will cover Miss Bishop's maternity leave until she returns.

We are informing the children today which teacher they will be going to next year, and of course we will ensure that over the next week, the children will have an opportunity to meet their teacher for a short time. Of course, everything we do must fit our risk assessments, and therefore this will be done in a Covid secure manner, so as not to burst any class bubbles.

School Uniform

As you know at Risca Primary School we are very proud of our school uniform. When visitors come to our school they always comment on how smart the children look and how well behaved they are. Whilst we have relaxed our school uniform this year, as we were aware that it was not always possible for families to purchase new uniform, we will return to our usual uniform protocols in September. To support you I have copied our Uniform page from our handbook for ease of reference:-

It is the Governors' wish that all pupils wear school uniform, and school uniform is compulsory from Reception onwards. Children will require a blue school polo shirt and school sweatshirt or cardigan. Children must wear grey trousers or skirts, plain dark socks with trousers and white socks with skirts. All pupils should wear black shoes, not trainers. Girls may wear grey tights during the winter months.

Nursery and Rising 3 children will need a school sweatshirt, tracksuit bottoms and trainers or something warm every day to do activities outside the classroom, or they may come in their own clothes. We would ask that children do not come to school in their best clothes. Although we do

have aprons sometimes little accidents will occur and we wouldn't want any best clothes spoiled in any way. School is a busy, messy place and clothes can get marked with paint, glue and felt pens. Whenever possible, we buy washable resources but some marks may not wash out.

Please check that your child can manage the fastenings on all shoes and clothes to ensure that they can change for PE and use the toilet independently.

We ask that all children present themselves in school in a neat and tidy manner. If hair is long please tie it back with a sensible bobble, which corresponds to school colours. We encourage all pupils to have sensible, natural hairstyles and discourage styles with tramlines, logos etc.

If you wish to have polo shirts and sweatshirts with a logo they may be bought from Darren Morgan Sports, Crosskeys.

PE Uniform

We also have a PE Uniform: This ensures that all pupils are appropriately dressed during PE sessions. The PE uniform is: black or navy leggings or joggers and a white t-shirt. Pupils may also have the opportunity to wear a logo t-shirt in their house colour. These are available from Darren Morgan. Please can I ask that all pupils wear the correct PE kit as of September. This will ensure that they are all appropriately dressed and ready to fully take part in all sporting activities. Many thanks for your support.

Important Dates

Week beginning 12th July: Sports week / Healthy school week

Wednesday 14th July: Year 6 leavers celebrations.

Thursday 15th July: Snoopy Day: 'Own Clothes Day', please bring a donation

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

School closes for the Summer holiday: Thursday 15th July at the usual time.

Thursday September 2nd: Training Day

Friday September 3rd: School starts back for the Autumn Term

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. I will pass on any new information for September as soon as the guidance is shared with headteachers

Many thanks

Mrs Arthur and Staff