

Risca Primary School

Summer Term Newsletter No 1

Tuesday 9th May 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

Amazingly, we are already in our Summer Term. It has been so lovely watching the children grow over the year, and already we can see that they have matured and are getting ready for their next year group. Our summer term is already packed full of exciting opportunities for the children, and I know that the children are enjoying their new topics, and the experiences that the teachers have planned for the children. If you follow us on Twitter, you will have seen our younger children, had a super experience last week, when Animal Interactive came to our school. On that day the children had a fantastic opportunity to handle a range of animals, such as guinea pig, rabbits, a meerkat and a skunk. They also had a chance to handle a range of reptiles including an 8 foot python. It was a super day for everyone, including staff, who were amazed to meet a domesticated fox, who was happy to be transported on the animal handlers' shoulders. All in all it was a great day for everyone, and we thank Animal Interactive for giving us such a special experience.

Healthy School

As you know alongside all schools in Wales we strive to be a healthy school and follow Welsh Government Guidance. The guidance aims to provide advice to schools to ensure that all children have the best opportunities to lead healthy lives. This includes nutrition. Can I please give a gentle reminder of our water on desks policy. We actively encourage children to bring a water bottle to school to ensure that they stay hydrated throughout the day, however bottles should only contain plain water. Flavoured water, sugary drinks and squash do not fall within Welsh Government Guidelines, and should water bottles contain these drinks we will pop them on the side of the classroom to be taken home at the end of the day. Should this occur, we will provide children with a cup for water during the day if necessary.

When adhering to guidelines we also insist that any snacks on the yard are fruit only. This does not include fruit bars, yoghurt tubes or fruit rolls, which are deemed detrimental to children's teeth. I have spoken to all of the children today to remind them that at break times we only allow fruit on the yard. Should they have other items in their lunchbox, these need to remain in their lunchbox until dinner time. Many thanks.

Dogs on The Yard

Just a quick reminder that we do not allow dogs on our yard. As a dog owner myself, I know that it is tempting to combine the walk to school with a walk for your dog, however, for health and safety reasons dogs are not allowed onto our school yard. I hope that you can see that we are just being sensible with the children's safety when applying this rule. The beginning and end of the school days are very busy, and we wouldn't want any child to be hurt by a dog who is distressed or spooked in the rush. Many thanks.

Smoking On School Premises

Following on from the last issue, we would also kindly ask that parents do not smoke on or around our site when picking pupils up. I am sure that you will want to work with us to keep our environment smoke free, and to ensure that pupils do not breathe in smoke at the beginning and the end of the day. Smoking is absolutely not allowed on our school site, and I would be grateful if you could refrain from smoking at the school gates, to ensure that our children can enter and leave the premises without inhaling smoke. Many thanks.

Nathan

As many of you are aware, sadly a few years ago one of our pupils, Nathan Chappell passed away, following an illness. We all continue to miss Nathan, who was an absolute character, and brought much joy to our school. In memory of Nathan we are holding an own clothes day on Friday 26th May, when the children can wear something that makes them smile! Additionally, to support children undergoing difficult treatment, we are asking for small toy donations which we will send to the charity LATCH, for a Bravery Box. These toys are given to children before, during and after treatment, to cheer them up, if they have had a challenging day. They are there to put a smile on a young person's face, and make difficult times more bearable. These toys are small token toys and not expensive. As examples, small cuddly toys, keyring toys, cards (football/pokemon), sticker packs, packs of beads, small children's jewellery, packs of pens, crayons etc. These items must be in **new** condition. Please be clear these are small token gifts and not expensive contributions. Should you wish to contribute to this

worthy cause, you can send in your toy contributions to us, and we will ensure that they are passed on to the charity.

Additionally, on that day we will be receiving a memorial bench for Nathan, which has been decorated by some of our children. I know that our children will benefit greatly from the new bench. We would like to thank all of the parents who have worked hard to provide us with the bench and we are pleased to be able to put this in a prominent area of our yard, in memory of one of lovely, charismatic pupils.

Dinner Money

Please be aware that from the 17th April the cost of school dinners increased to £2.30 per day. Don't forget that all of our Infant children are now entitled to free school meals, which should ease the financial burdens on families who have younger pupils. The roll out for free school meals for our older children will begin in September 2023.

Careers Fayre

Many thanks to all of those parents and members of our community who contributed to our super careers fayre. It really was a very informative experience for our children, who were able to ask questions about prospective careers to a range of people. We are so grateful for all of the hard work of all of the participants, as we would not have been able to run the fayre without your kind participation.

Rags 2 Riches

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our Rags 2 Riches collection. For this collection we raised £76.36. All monies will go into our school fund and be spent on those added extras for the children. Many thanks.

Parents Evening

Thank you to all of you who attended parents' evening in March. It really was lovely to see everyone 'in person' at last, and share the good news stories about our lovely children. One of the most common concerns raised by parents was concerns over the use of mobile phones by some children. In particular there were concerns raised that children can be unkind when using mobile phones. This can be upsetting for everyone concerned. We regularly speak to children about being kind, even when on social media/mobile phones, and we would be grateful if this could be reinforced at home, to ensure that we keep our children happy and safe. Many thanks.

Kind regards,

Mrs Arthur and Staff

Dates for the Diary

May

Wednesday 17th May: Theme Menu

Friday 26th May: Break up for Half Term - 3.10pm

June

Monday 5th June- School re-opens to pupils

Monday 5th June- Swimming lessons start for year 4 (3 week block) - details to follow

Monday 19th-30th June - Test window

Tuesday 27th June - "Moving up" meeting for new parents 5pm- invitations to follow

Thursday 29th June - Moving up day for all classes

July

Monday 3rd July - University week

Monday 10th July - Healthy week

Thursday 13th July - Sports day

Monday 17th July - Year 6 Leavers Concert 6pm

Tuesday 18th July - Year 6 Leavers Festival (in school time)

Wednesday 19th July - School finishes for the Summer holiday at 1.30pm

Thursday 20th July - Training day - school closed to pupils

Friday 21st July - Training day- school closed to pupils