

Risca Primary School

Summer Term Newsletter No 3

Tuesday 8th June 2021

Dear Mums and Dads,

It seems as if Summer is here at last. I hope that you are all enjoying the sunshine, and were able to make the most of last week. We are all hoping that the warm weather stays with us for the rest of the term to allow us to get the children outside for a few planned activities over the next weeks.



New Curriculum

As you will be aware in 2022, we will be embarking on an exciting new Curriculum for Wales. We are currently re-writing our curriculum and planning for some significant changes within our school. We are now looking at our timetables and 'tinkering with them' to ensure that when children come back to school in September our timetables are well balanced in order to ensure that all pupils have the appropriate time for each area of the curriculum.

One of the major elements of the new curriculum is Health and Wellbeing and we are currently looking at expanding our wellbeing curriculum to incorporate a wider range of wellbeing activities for all pupils. I am sure that you will agree that it is really important now that we support our pupils to be well both mentally and physically and to give them wellbeing skills which will put them in good stead for life. To further support wellbeing we are also currently looking at reshaping our P.E. timetables to ensure that as a school we support our pupils to be fit and healthy throughout their time with us.

Watch this space for more details as we continue to plan for this exciting new curriculum over the next few weeks.

Transition

As you will be aware it is not possible for us to adhere to our usual transition routines this year due to the current strict Covid restrictions which remain in place. You will know 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. In particular, we will be unable to hold our usual parent transition meetings due to the current Covid restrictions,

and additionally, we are unable to host new pupils to our school prior to September, as this would naturally break bubbles and contact groups between schools.

We are currently reviewing our transition protocols for Nursery, Reception and Year 3. We are eager to ensure that despite the current restrictions both you and your child have the opportunity to visit our school and meet your child's new teacher. To ensure that we keep parents and pupils fully informed, and to ease the transition into our school, we will offer some alternatives as substitutes for formal meetings. As an example, we are currently recording some welcome videos for pupils and parents which we will share with you in due course. In addition to this we will also hold an open 'Meet and Greet Day' for pupils and parents alike. This will allow you and your child to meet and greet the teacher, and you will be able to pick up all of the information that you will need prior to your child joining our school. Please see times and dates of 'Meet and Greet' sessions below.

As you will be aware it is our usual custom to mix the Ty Isaf and Risca Primary pupils when they arrive in Year 3. However, we are aware that as our transition activities will be curtailed this year, this may not be the best option. Therefore, for Ty Isaf pupils, once again, this year we will keep all Ty Isaf pupils in the same class. We hope that this will ease the transition for the pupils and give them the security of being in the same class as all of their friends. We will then mix the classes as the children move into Year 4. Please be reassured that we will as usual liaise with the teachers from Ty Isaf to ensure that all pupil information is transferred to us so that we can do our very best for your child from September.

Year 6 Leavers Celebrations

We are now putting in place our final touches for our Year 6 leavers celebrations. These will take place on Wednesday July 14th, within school. To celebrate the end of year for our Year 6 pupils we have booked a pizza van (to make your own pizza) and an ice-cream van. On that day we will celebrate with music and a range of games, such as a coconut shy/splat the rat. We are all really looking forward to the event and I know that the children will have a great day. All year 6 children may wear their own clothes on the day of their party. Many thanks to the PTA for supporting us with the finances for the day. We are really grateful.

Sports Days/Healthy Week - Week beginning Monday 12th July.

Again, in line with the Covid 19 restrictions we have had to make some changes to our usual sports day routines. This year our sports days will be held in school on Monday 12th July, Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th July, and take the form of sports activities which will be held over the three days. To supplement our sports activities we also have a range of healthy school activities planned for that week. If you could send your children into school, wearing their PE kits on those days we would be very grateful (with the exception of year 6 who may wear their own clothes on Wednesday for their leavers event.)

Risca University - Week beginning Monday 5th July.

We will be holding Risca University week this year, with a bit of a 'twist'. As you know we must keep our class bubbles tight and therefore we will be holding our University week within our class bubble. Risca University will take place on the week beginning Monday 5th July. Look out for more information on this very special week soon!

Personalised Assessments

In line with Welsh Government Guidance we will be administering pupil Personalised Assessments (formally known as National tests) on the week beginning Monday 21st June and Monday 28th June. The tests are now all online and all children from Year 2 to Year 6 are required to take part in the assessments. This year, pupils are only required to undertake two tests; a reading test and a maths procedural test. These will be done over the course of the two weeks. They will be completed in class, as a part of the school day.

Birthday Celebrations

We are always really happy to celebrate birthdays for children in school and we recognise that all children would wish for their class to celebrate with them. Currently we continue to wish any child 'a happy birthday' within the classroom setting. However, currently, we can only do this with certain restrictions. Presently, our Local Authority Risk Assessment, only allows 'essential items' to be brought to school from home. As examples these include, as examples, a coat, a bag, a reading book. We are not allowed to accept any non essential items into school, and even items that are essential, such as reading books have to be quarantined for 72 hours before we can use them again. Therefore currently we are unable to accept any cakes into school for birthdays.

When the restrictions are lifted, we will revert to our usual Healthy Schools Policy, where pupils may bring shop bought individual cakes, which can be given out at the end of the day. Unfortunately we are unable to give out sweets for birthdays as this would not comply with Welsh Government Healthy Schools Guidance. Many thanks for your understanding.

Communication With School/New Delta Variant

You will be aware that there is now increasing concern for the Delta variant which is becoming increasingly dominant in parts of the country. Newspaper reports note that the variant is significantly more transmissible than other variants. Therefore currently we are being extra cautious, as 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. Should you suspect that your child has a case of Covid 19, or if you or one of your family is being tested for Covid 19, it is really important that you inform us immediately, in order that we can work to keep our community safe. 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. 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.

LATCH Fundraiser

A huge thank you to all of you who contributed to our LATCH fundraising day, in memory of one of our lovely pupils Nathan Chappell. We raised a huge £445.59 which we have donated to the charity. We were especially touched by contributions from some pupils which came from their own money boxes, which I am sure that you will agree was a very generous gesture. Well done and thank you to all of you who contributed to this very worthwhile cause.

Important Dates

Week beginning 21st June - Years 2 and Year 3 Personalised assessments

Week beginning 28th June: Years 4, 5 and 6 Personalised assessments

Week beginning 5th July: Risca University Week

Wednesday 7th July: Meet and Greet Day: Nursery and Reception pupils 1pm to 3 pm.

Year 3 pupils 3.30 pm to 5 pm

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

Wednesday 14th July : Year 6 leavers celebrations.

Thursday 15th July: Snoopy Day: 'Own Clothes Day'

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