

Risca Primary School

Autumn Term Newsletter No 1

Friday 8th September 2023



Dear Mums and Dads,

Welcome back! I hope that you had a lovely holiday, despite the poor weather in August! As usual, the sun has decided to shine as soon as we are back to school, however, this has given us a lovely start to the new year. Children have been able to eat their packed lunch outside this week, and we have been able to get out to play every day. No wet playtimes thank goodness.

Can I just give you a few reminders for the term, which will hopefully allow you to navigate the term successfully, and some important dates which are already in our school diary?

Free School Meals

Can I just give you a quick reminder that school meals are now free for all children in our school? The menu for schools is online on the CCBC website. Can I please ask all parents to spend time with their children, supporting them to use a knife and fork? As you can imagine, we now have a large number of children who are having lunches, and whilst we try support children, it's a challenge helping a large number of children who are not accustomed to using cutlery. We encourage children to use knives and forks for their main course, and spoons for their desert. We also support children to cut food where it is difficult for them, but we would be grateful for your support at home. Many thanks.

School Uniform

Many thanks for sending the children back to school looking so smart. At Risca Primary we pride ourselves on looking smart, and ready to learn. We have uniform stickers for pupils who adhere to our uniform, and we try really hard to encourage children to be proud of their uniform and their school. Don't forget that we also have a PE uniform which consists of black shorts/joggers and either a house T-shirt (available from Darren Morgan's at Crosskeys) or a plain white T-shirt. I have asked all staff to check PE uniforms, as last year, a small number of pupils were coming in wearing unsuitable PE kit. I am sure that you will agree that it is important that our children are properly dressed at all times, and hope that you will work with us to ensure that all children are suitably dressed. Many thanks.

Water in School

We encourage all pupils to bring a filled water bottle to school every day, to ensure that children can keep hydrated. Can I remind you that Welsh Government Guidance states that children can bring water, but not flavoured water or squash to school? This is to ensure that we promote healthy options in school and not support pupils to develop a 'sweet tooth'. We also have taps available in every classroom with drinking water, to enable children are able to top up their water bottles throughout the day.

Healthy Schools

At Risca Primary School, we are a healthy school and adhere to Welsh Government Healthy Schools Guidance. We have a fruit tuck shop where children can buy fruit for 25p, and we encourage children to bring fruit for their playtime snack. As a healthy school we only allow fruit on the yard at playtime. No other snacks are permissible under the Healthy Schools scheme. Many thanks.

We do know that birthdays are a special time for all children, and some children wish to bring in cakes for their birthday. Should your child wish to bring in cakes on their birthday, we kindly ask that they are shop bought individual cakes. We are unable to cut large cakes, and unfortunately, we are unable to give out home-baked cakes. If your child brings in cakes, we will give them out at the end of the day to all of their classmates.

Reading Books

At Risca Primary School we place a high emphasis on basic skills including reading. Pupils have a minimum of two reading sessions a week, and many pupils have daily reading opportunities. Children will also bring a reading book home for them to practise their reading skills. Please be aware that we always send home a book which is a level below the level they are reading with the teacher in school. This allows children to read independently and focus on fluency and enjoyment of reading. Reading books will be sent home on a Friday, and we kindly ask that you return reading folders by Wednesday, so that we can have time to change the books.

Scooters on the Yard

I know that some of you support your children to ride to school on their scooters. Can I kindly ask that children dismount from their scooters before entering our yard? You will be aware that we have very small children in our yard at the beginning and the end of the day, and we don't want anyone to get hurt.

Many thanks,

Mrs Arthur and Staff

Important Dates

October

Friday 13th October - Flu immunisations - Rec to year 6- details to follow.

Tuesday 25th: Parents' Evening

Wednesday 26th: Parents' Evening

November

Wednesday 8th: November: Individual Photograph Day

Friday 17th: Children In Need Day

December

Week beginning 11th December: Christmas Concert Week

Week Beginning 18th December: Christmas Party Week

Friday 22nd: School finishes at 1.30pm for Christmas

