

# Risca Primary School

## Autumn Term Newsletter No 2

Friday 17th September 2021

Dear Mums and Dads,

I hope that you are well, and that you are settling back into the routines of school. It seems like a long time since we have all arrived at school at the same time, and picked up our children at the same time. Can I thank all of you for working hard on the yard to make sure that our yard is as safe as possible when the children enter and leave the building. Can I also thank all of you who are wearing face masks. It really is lovely to see everyone pulling together as a community to keep each other safe.

As promised, I have a few more details about our revised organisation, which you may find useful.

### **Breakfast Club**

As you know, we currently plan to start our Breakfast Club again on Monday 20th September. Could I please ask that you only use Breakfast Club **if absolutely necessary**, as tracking close contacts from Breakfast Club will be particularly challenging. We are currently looking at how best to organise our Breakfast Club to minimise contacts, but this poses serious challenges for us. Firstly, giving pupils seating plans is not an option, as often different children come to the Breakfast Club on different days. Additionally, it is not appropriate for our younger children to sit for the entire duration of the session, as this is too long. Therefore we have to allow our younger children opportunities to play whilst attending the club. Naturally, we will do our best to segregate groups of pupils, but having large quantities of pupils in our only hall will present challenges. Therefore, to keep our children safe, I would kindly ask that pupils only attend Breakfast Club if absolutely necessary. Many thanks.

If you wish for your child to attend Breakfast Club and you have not completed an application form, please pop to the Office to pick one up. Pupils will not be able to attend Breakfast Club if you have not picked up an application form. Mrs Wilmore will pop the letters in the outside lobby so that you can pick one up without entering the main building. Please note that our Breakfast Club is only available for children of statutory school age and therefore children of Nursery age are currently unable to attend. Breakfast Club starts at 8 am, and children may enter breakfast Club through the Year 3 door on Gwendoline Road. When dropping off your child, please make sure that you hand your child over to the breakfast club staff to ensure that they are registered and safely accommodated into our building. Many thanks.



## **Feel Good Friday**

Today we are starting our Feel Good Friday programme for children in Year 2 to year 6. For our youngest children we will continue to do regular Forest Schools Sessions as a part of their wellbeing provision. We will send out more information on feel Good Friday as the term progresses, but don't forget to ask your child about their experiences today in school.

## **Parking**

As a polite reminder, please be reminded that our school car park is for school staff only. The only exception to this is for parents whose pupils have a disability, and these parents may use our disabled space. Over the last two weeks we have had a number of parents entering our car park to drop pupils off at school. This has at times blocked access to our disabled parking space. Additionally staff have seen parents in our car park driving at speed, and reversing at speed without paying due care and attention. I am sure that you would agree that our school site should be a safe place for staff and pupils alike, and therefore I would kindly ask that all parents refrain from using our car park as a drop off for their children. Many thanks.

## **One Way System**

Please be aware that we now have a one way system in front of our school on Dany-Graig Road. Additionally, this road is now restricted to permit holders only between the hours of 8.15 - 9.15 am, and 2.45-3.30pm. These road restrictions were put in specifically, as a result of a number of near misses between vehicle and pupils which have been reported over the years. I am very concerned that a number of parents are ignoring the restrictions and are once again putting our children at risk. We are currently liaising with the Police and with Road traffic Officers to ask them to initiate regular patrols outside of our school to keep our pupils safe.

## **New Covid Regulations**

Just as a reminder, if you missed this in our last newsletter, you will by now know that pupils under the age of 18 no longer have to self isolate, when in direct contact with a positive covid case, and therefore pupils are able to continue to attend school if there is a positive case within their class. You will also be aware that as a school we have had a number of confirmed cases in school over the last two weeks, and we are working very hard to maintain good hygiene practices in school to limit the spread of the virus. However, we are all now aware that the virus is spreading very quickly amongst younger people, and as a school we anticipate that we will have additional cases in the future.

As a school, we are now working with new T.T.P. regulations. When responding to Covid cases, school staff will now work with T.T.P. to identify any close contacts of the positive case. Please be aware that currently we are not able to make decisions on which pupils are close contacts, before seeking advice and clarification from T.T.P. Presently we are experiencing a delay in T.T.P. response, and therefore it is not currently possible for us to get the names of close

contacts to you as swiftly as we would like. To ensure that we work with you to keep our community as safe as possible, we will make every effort to notify you immediately should we have a school positive case. This will allow you to be on 'high alert' if necessary, and take any necessary precautions as a family.

As soon as we have been advised on close contacts by T.T.P. we will send all close contacts a 'Warn and Inform Letter' which will give you extra advice on keeping you, your family and community safe.

When reporting covid cases to parents, you are aware we are now setting for maths in year 4,5 and 6. Therefore, if we have a case of Covid in our upper school we will inform all of the Year group that there has been a case and ask all parents of that year group to be vigilant.

Many thanks.

### **Important Dates**

Week Beginning 18th October 2021 : Parents Evening

Week Beginning 25th October 2021 : Half Term

Friday 17th December : School closes for Christmas

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