

Risca Primary School

Autumn Term Newsletter No 2

Friday 20th October 2023



Dear Mums and Dads,

What a busy term we have had so far! Our year 3 and 4 children have enjoyed a trip to Cardiff Castle, linked to their “Destroyers” topic. We have two more trips next week before we break up for half term. How lovely to be enjoying school trips again and I’d like to thank the volunteers who have accompanied children on the trips.

Our School Choir took part in a charity concert in aid of the local charity “Dreams and Wishes”. Thank you to Mr Thomas and the children of the choir for taking part. The concert was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Water on Desks

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.

School Meals

We have seen a significant rise in the number of children having school dinners now that meals are free for all primary school children across Wales. Please continue to support your child by regularly looking at the menu options. Please be aware that there will soon be a change to the current 3 week menu. We will let you know when we have more details.

There are a small number of children who still have a debt on their Upay dinner account, from before the free meals were introduced. Please can I ask you all to log into Upay and if there is a debt, please pay this amount. Thank you.

Autumn Weather

As Autumn has quite clearly arrived, please can we ask that all children bring a coat to school everyday. We are trying to get the children out as much as possible so a warm coat will definitely be needed.

Shwmae Day

On **Monday 23rd October** we will be celebrating Shwmae Day. The aim of Shwmae day is to encourage non-Welsh speakers to start conversations in the Welsh language. Children are invited to wear red, white and/or green to school on this day. If your child has PE on Monday please incorporate red, white or green into their PE kit. If your child is in Year 5 please be reminded they are going on a school trip on Monday and will be required to wear normal uniform.

Farewell to Mr Crandon

You will have seen on seesaw and on our social media that Mr Crandon our Caretaker of 18 years has retired. We wish him a long and happy retirement and we hope that he might pop back from time to time to visit us.

Rags to Riches Collection

We have arranged a collection with Rags to Riches. If you have any good quality clothes that you could donate, we will collect them up to the **morning of Tuesday 7th November**. You can bring donations into school and pass them on to staff on the doors in the mornings. For every Kilogram of clothes we collect, we get 40p. The clothes are then re-used in a number of environmentally friendly ways.

Road Restrictions and Parking

Please can I remind you that Graig View is restricted to permit holders only between the hours of 8.15 - 9.15 am, and 2.45-3.30pm. These restrictions were put in specifically, as a result of a number of near misses between vehicles 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.

Can I kindly advise you to ensure that you adhere to parking restrictions around the school, as I know that the Police and Traffic Wardens are able to issue fixed penalty fines, for breaches of the regulations.

Earrings

No jewellery can be worn during PE. We therefore recommend that the children don't wear jewellery to school at all. Small earring studs however may be worn along with a sensible wristwatch. **If stud earrings are worn, we are obliged to place a plaster or micro pore tape over studs during PE sessions, for health and safety reasons.**

Uniform Shop

As you will have heard by now, we now have a eco-friendly uniform shop, where we are recycling nearly new uniform items. Mr Thomas is managing our shop. Look out for information from him after half term, when we will be publishing our opening times!

Sickness Bug

We have sadly sent home a number of children this week with sickness. Just as a reminder, if children are sent home with sickness or diarrhoea they are unable to return to school for 48 hours. This should ensure that they are well enough to return and are not at risk of spreading any 'tummy bugs' to other children. Many thanks for your understanding.

Twitter/Instagram

Presently we are having some problems with Twitter, and as a result of some ongoing issues we are in the process of switching from Twitter to Instagram. Of course, any change in technology rarely goes smoothly!! Can I kindly ask you to bear with us whilst we make the change, we sincerely hope that we will be all sorted after half term.

Parents' Evening

We look forward to seeing you all next week, when we will be holding parents' evenings. Can I urge you all to attend. We are looking forward to letting you know how your child has settled into school and their ways forward for the forthcoming year. This year we are **not** doing telephone meetings, as we find that in person meetings are most productive. Please note that whilst we will always try to accommodate requests for changes of time this is not always possible. I am sure that you will understand that whilst it may be convenient for many parents to have meetings scheduled for immediately after school, it is impossible for us to accommodate all such requests.

Many thanks,

Mrs Arthur and Staff

Important Dates

October

Monday 23rd : Shwmae Day

Tuesday 24th: Parents' Evening

Wednesday 25th: Parents' Evening

Friday 27th: Break up for half term at 3.10pm

November

Monday 6th: School reopens to pupils

Tuesday 7th : Rags to Riches Collection

Wednesday 8th: Individual Photograph Day

Friday 17th: Children In Need Day

December

Week beginning 11th December: Christmas Concert Week

Week beginning 18th December: Christmas Party Week

Wednesday 20th December - School Christmas dinner day.

Friday 22nd: School finishes at 1.30pm for Christmas