

# Risca Primary School

## Summer Term Newsletter No 2

Friday 26th May 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of our Summer Term, it is lovely to see the sun shining brightly, and the weather giving us every opportunity to get outside. Our younger children are enjoying their outdoor learning, and are continuing to take part in their Forest School activities. This is a particularly busy term. This newsletter should help you to navigate to the end of term successfully.

### **LATCH**

Today we held an 'own clothes day' and asked for donations of small toys for LATCH. Thank you for the overwhelming support for this, we have collected some wonderful items to pass on to LATCH, as well as a donation of £34.51.

You may notice a new planter and bench on our KS2 yard, this was donated in memory of Nathan Chappell. It is a lovely addition to our yard and those of us who remember Nathan will always be reminded of him when we see the Minecraft design!

### **Suncream**

As the sun is now shining, can I please give a reminder about applying suncream to your child before school. We would recommend factor 50, once a day cream to ensure that your child is fully protected from the sun. We would also recommend that pupils wear a sun hat, and if necessary a light long sleeved item of clothing which may be worn on the yard. We do not have staff available to supervise pupils applying suncream or apply suncream for pupils, and therefore all suncream must be applied before the start of the school day. Many thanks for your understanding.

### **Risca University Week - Monday 3rd July**

As you know, it is a tradition of ours to end the summer term with a range of lovely activities for the children. This year once again we will be having a Risca University Week, where all children are given the opportunity to have a week in 'University' completing a University course. This year we have a range of fabulous opportunities for the children. Please look out for the University prospectus which will be coming home soon.

### **Healthy Week - Monday 10th July**

Towards the end of term we will also be holding a Healthy Week where we teach the children all of the essential elements of being healthy, including exercise and nutrition. We will combine those with our Sports Day which will be held on Thursday 13th July. Further details to follow.

### **New Parents Meeting**

We will be holding a meeting for new pupils to our school on Tuesday 27th June. The meeting is intended for parents of pupils who next year will be in our Nursery, Reception and year 3 classes. We also welcome the parents of our current Year 2 pupils, should parents wish to have a refresher meeting, and should they wish to view our Year 3 classrooms. Further details will be available nearer the date.

### **Moving Up Day**

On June 29th we will be having our moving up day, where all children will be able to meet their new teacher. Please be aware that pupils will not know their class until the actual moving up day. On the morning of the 29th we will meet and greet all pupils in their current class and move them up to their new teacher.

On this day our year 6 pupils will be attending their new secondary schools.

Arrangements for this will be shared with them by their chosen comprehensive school. Many thanks.

### **Personalised Assessments**

In line with Welsh Government Guidance we will be administering pupil Personalised Assessments (formally known as National tests) on the weeks beginning Monday 19th June and Monday 26th 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.

### **New Library Card**

Congratulations to Lennon in Year 5 who won a competition run by The Caerphilly Library service, to design their new library card. 40,000 new cards featuring Lennon's design have been printed and will be issued to all new library applications made by children. It can also be issued to adults if they request it! Well done Lennon!

### **Fixed Term Penalty Notices**

As you know we work very hard at Risca Primary School to ensure that all children attend school regularly. Mr Bills is our Attendance Officer and he is always keen to work with families, to ensure that all children have good attendance. We know that when children attend school regularly they have the very best chance to do well when they are with us. We also know that when children's attendance is erratic, they find it hard to make up for missed time and as a result their attainment in school can suffer. Therefore as a school, we are happy to work with you to ensure that we can get the best attendance possible for each and every child.

When working with parents we aim to support you in as many ways as possible, and when necessary to seek support from other agencies, such as health if necessary. We find that on the whole our support is very successful, and we regularly work well with families to improve pupil attendance. However, in a small number of cases, we continue to have some pupils whose attendance is very poor. In these circumstances, if we have given support to families and pupil attendance has still not improved, we will now consider issuing fixed penalty notices to parents. This is in line with the Education Act of 1996, which states that *'If a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school, or fails to attend regularly at alternative provision, the child's parent/guardian is guilty of an offence under s.444 Education Act 1996'*.

Please be aware that we absolutely do not wish to issue Fixed penalty Notices, and this will always be a last resort, however, as a school we also have an obligation to ensure that pupils are able to access their entitlement to education, to ensure that they do their very best whilst in school, and maximise their life opportunities.

Kind regards,

Mrs Arthur and Staff

## **Dates for the Diary**

### May

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)

Monday 19th-30th June - Test window

Tuesday 27th June - 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