

Risca Primary School

Spring Term Newsletter No 11

Tuesday 23rd February 2021



Dear Mums and Dads,

By now I am sure that you will have heard that subject to a continued reduction in the rate of transmission of the Coronavirus, the Government is drawing up tentative plans for Key Stage 2 pupils to begin to return to school from March 15th onwards. Presently we do not have any further details on this, but as soon as we are aware of exact planning details we will inform you as soon as possible.

You will know that our Foundation Phase children are set to return this week. We are very much looking forward to seeing them and look forward to settling them back into old school routines. Please see below the timetable for the return of our Foundation Phase children.

<u>Monday 22nd Feb</u>	Hub is open to children of critical workers - (children must be pre-registered) Blended learning set for all Foundation Phase pupils.
<u>Tuesday 23rd Feb</u>	Hub is open to children of critical workers - (children must be pre-registered) Rising 3 parent teacher meetings (Details to follow) Blended learning set for all Foundation Phase pupils.
<u>Wednesday 24th Feb</u>	Hub is open to children of critical workers - (children must be pre-registered). Nursery and Reception pupils to attend school Blended learning set for Year 1/2 pupils.
<u>Thursday 25th Feb</u>	All Foundation Phase pupils to attend school.
<u>Friday 26th Feb</u>	All Foundation Phase pupils to attend school.
<u>Week beginning 1st March</u>	Rising 3 pupils start school this week. Please await a confirmation of a start date.

Catering

Don't forget that for the first week back we will be unable to provide hot meals for the children as our catering services will not resume until March the 1st. Please send your child to school with a lunchbox during the first week. As usual, lunch time will be taken in the classrooms.

School Uniform

As we are now beginning to return to some sort of normality in school, we would now kindly ask that all children wear school uniform. You will be aware that one of the recommendations for keeping children safe is to have good ventilation and therefore as detailed in our risk assessment we will continue to air rooms regularly and ensure that there is a good through flow of air. This will reduce the risk of transmission of the virus in school. We kindly ask that children are dressed warmly with an extra layer/hoodie to ensure that they are warm throughout the day. **This week we have had pupils arriving in school with clothes which have not kept pupils warm. Can I please urge you to ensure pupils are warmly dressed until the weather changes. As a suggestion, I would recommend that any pupils wearing skirts continue to wear tights until we can be certain that we have seen the end of any 'cold snaps'. Many thanks.**

Keeping Children Safe

You will now have received the letter from the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board which details further advice on keeping our community and children safe. These are:-

- Don't send your child to school if they are unwell **even if you are not sure that it is coronavirus.**
- Don't send your child to school if anyone in your household has booked a coronavirus test.
- If you need to use public transport or a taxi to take your child to school please do so safely, and consider walking if possible.
- Unless you have no choice, please do not share a lift to school with other families.
- When you take your child to school and collect them, always keep your distance from other parents and don't stay around to chat.
- Don't invite other children (or their parents/carers) to your home to play or stay, indoors or outdoors, even if they are in the same bubble at school.
- Make sure your child hand washes or sanitises his/her hands regularly.
- If your child displays symptoms of coronavirus, they will be sent home. You will need to arrange a test for them and ensure that they follow the self-isolation guidance.

Please take extra note of the first bullet point, as it is essential that children only attend school if they are absolutely fit and well. Should your child show any signs of being unwell please keep

them home, and additionally, should they become at all unwell throughout the day we will kindly ask that you come and pick your child up.

In terms of health and safety we will continue to follow the well established protocols to which we were adhering to, prior to lockdown. Don't forget that children will remain in their bubbles and pupils **will not** have opportunities to mix across bubbles throughout the day. We will also continue to segregate yards to ensure that bubbles remain separate whilst pupils have opportunities for play. We will also continue to promote good hand hygiene with all children.

Don't forget that we now ask all visitors to school to wear face coverings. This includes the whole of our school site, including the yards. Additionally, as the Welsh Government have now strengthened the advice to school staff, please be aware that all teachers will now be wearing masks for the whole day, including during lesson time. I am sure that you will understand the need to keep our teachers safe throughout these challenging times. Many thanks.

Don't forget, should your child have a positive coronavirus test whilst in school please contact us as soon as possible, via See-Saw, e-mail or telephone in order that we can start self isolation procedures immediately, and where possible limit any potential transmission.

Session Times

As our Foundation Phase department is now fully open we now need to revert to our staggered times to ensure that we are able to control the numbers of adults on our site at any one time. Therefore, please be reminded that our Foundation Phase doors open at 9.10 and close at 2.50. Our Hub class doors open at 8.50 and close at 3.10. Nursery session times are from 8.50 to 11.20. Once again, can I urge you to leave our site as soon as you have picked up/dropped off your child in order to keep our site as safe and as decongested as possible.

Please be aware that when all pupils return to school we will revert back to our September staggered opening times. I will send these out as a reminder prior to any whole school re-opening.

Hub Provision.

Don't forget that now that our Foundation Phase staff are back full time, we have had to make some changes to our hub provision. From the Week beginning 22nd February, our Key Stage 2 teachers will also be teaching in hub classrooms. I am sure that you will understand that if teachers are teaching in hub classrooms they may not be readily available to respond to blended learning submissions. Currently teachers are scheduled to work in the hub one day a week. Teachers will let you know when they are working in the hub so that you can be aware that they may be unable to respond quickly to see-saw messages. Many thanks for your understanding.

Wrap Around Childcare

We are aware that a number of parents use wrap around childcare, in addition to school provision. We absolutely understand that a number of you may have no alternative, however naturally, by using an additional setting for childcare, this is an immediate mixing of bubbles. I would kindly ask, in line with the Risk Assessment, provided for us by the Local Authority, that where possible any wrap around provision is kept to a minimum for the foreseeable future and only used when absolutely essential. Should you need to use wrap around and there is a case of Covid 19 in that setting, we would be grateful if you could inform us, so that we can make any necessary arrangements if needed. Many thanks.

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. We very much look forward to seeing our youngest pupils return to school and for our Key Stage 2 pupils we are still at the end of a telephone or e-mail.

Many thanks

Mrs Arthur and Staff