

Risca Primary School

Autumn Term Newsletter No 6

Friday 17th December 2021

Important Covid 19 information

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday, all head teachers received notification from the Welsh Assembly Government that the start of term for pupils will be delayed, to allow schools to prepare for the expected, upcoming issues in regards to the new Omicron variant. These planning days are to allow schools to plan for:

- Ensuring there is a robust plan in place for any potential move to home learning (blended learning) should classes/year groups/school need to close.
- Assessing staff capacity in regards to illness/absence,
- Analysing the most up to date Covid data to adapt our risk assessment.
- Planning for all pupils and school staff to return to school safely e.g. Staggered starts/finishes/social distancing measures/one way systems etc.

Therefore Risca Primary children will now return to school on **Monday 10th of January**. (Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th will now be planning days and Thursday 6th and Friday 7th will now be training days, with the training day planned for February now moved forward).

Please also be aware that **breakfast club will not open** at the start of term, whilst we assess the situation and review our risk assessments and procedures.

I understand that this is the last thing that anyone wanted and I thank you in advance for your understanding. Staff will be in contact with families to check in during the first week they are back. We are also currently preparing a booklet for all parents and carers that details everything you will need to know before the children return to school. Of course, we will be in contact with all of you as soon as we know any further information.



Now for the nice bit . .

This term

I cannot believe it is the end of term already. Although it has been a difficult term in regards to Covid, we couldn't be more proud of the way the children have taken everything in their stride. We're also very grateful for the support we have received for all of you, so thank you.

I think the main highlights of this half term have been: the recording of the Christmas Nativity; if you don't laugh and cry, I will be very surprised (as Mr Bills did!), the link will be sent out tomorrow. Enterprise week in which the children created their Christmas decorations and also how the children have been learning all about Christmas and how other cultures celebrate. Check out our school Twitter page for all of the lovely photos!

Parking and driving around the school

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for taking care when parking and driving around the school; the green cones have been a real success. But, please could I ask everyone to be mindful of their speed when driving around the school, lots of children are crossing the road at multiple points and we would hate for an accident to happen. Thank you.

School uniform/PE/Games kit

We have had a fabulous week this week wearing our own clothes to school, it felt like Christmas has started early for all of us.

When we return in January, please can I ask that all children wear the correct school uniform of grey trousers/skirt, blue t-shirt and a navy jumper. We are seeing an increasing number of children wearing brightly coloured clothes and hooded jumpers that do not adhere to our school uniform policy.

PE/games kit is black legging/joggers, a white t-shirt and a navy jumper. Of course, children are also encouraged to wear their house coloured t-shirts which may be purchased from Darren Morgan's uniform shop in Crosskeys.

Thank you, I appreciate your support on this.

Fund raising

Our Christmas raffle was a huge success this year, so I wanted to say thank you to everyone who bought tickets. It was so lovely seeing how excited the children were! We

raised £650 and will let you know later on in the year how this money was spent. Fingers crossed that next year we will be back in the hall having our Christmas fair!

We also hosted our annual Christmas jumper day, raising over £150 for the Noah's Ark jungle ward appeal. The children and staff looked fabulous and it's great to know that this money will go to such a worthwhile charity.

Huge thank you to staff

I am sure you would like to join me in saying a huge thank you to all of the staff at Risca Primary for their hard work and perseverance this term. It is an absolute credit to all of them that we have not had to close any classes this term, when so many other schools have. It really is a privilege to work with such a dedicated team.

Important Dates

Tuesday 4th/Wednesday 5th of January: Planning days for schools

Thursday 6th/Friday 7th January: Training days

Monday 10th January: Pupils return to school (no breakfast club)

Finally, we would like to wish you a happy, safe and relaxing Christmas and thank you for all of your support in what has been a difficult time for us all.

Wishing you all a very merry and safe Christmas,

Kind regards,

Mrs Farley and Staff



