

# Risca Primary School

## Autumn Newsletter No 1

Monday 7th September



Dear Mums and Dads,

Welcome back to the new September term. It has been lovely today to see our children beginning to return and we look forward to seeing them all over the next week. I hope that you have been able to have a break over the summer holidays, even if it was just getting a bit of local sunshine!

### Local News

If you have watched the news recently, you will know that Caerphilly Council is monitoring a rise in cases of Covid 19 in the Caerphilly region. Therefore please be reassured that we are still as vigilant as ever about maintaining good hygiene and social distancing protocols within school, and we would kindly ask you to support us by maintaining good social distancing on site at all times. To support this we continue to have one way systems in place on the yard. All updated information for our September opening can be found in our September Handbook which has been sent out via Twitter and See-Saw.

### Staffing

You will be aware that as a school community we have a clear duty to keep all within our community safe throughout the pandemic. Like many schools we have a number of vulnerable staff and a small number of staff who are shielding. When considering the position of such staff we will always take advice from the Local Authority and Welsh Government, and where appropriate we will ask certain staff groups to refrain from attending work, and work from home. When this occurs you may find that your child's class is covered by a member of Risca Primary School staff, or a supply member of staff. Presently, we have two classes being covered by supply teachers within school. There are classes 3B (at the beginning of the week) and class 4B. We will keep you informed should this change.

You will be aware that Wales is now running its Test, Trace and Protect scheme, and will be working with communities for the foreseeable future to identify members of the public who may need to self quarantine. Should school staff need to self quarantine for any reason, we will, where possible cover classes with either a member of school staff or a supply teacher. We

anticipate that this year may have some disruptions. Please be reassured that we will always do our best to minimise disruption to the school year wherever possible.

### **Communicating With Parents**

You will have read in the local newspapers that already, a small number of schools have had to send pupils home, and in some circumstances, whole classes have been sent home. Should we need to send pupils home, we need to ensure that we can do it quickly and effectively, and I would kindly ask that you ensure that we have an up to date mobile phone number, AND up to date emergency contact numbers.

We will also work with you to ensure that all families are signed up to our See-Saw App. This will not only be our main method of communication with parents, but also will be the App which we will use to send home pupil learning home.

### **Pupil Sickness**

This year, I am sure that you will agree that it is important to keep our school community safe, Therefore I am sure that you will understand that if any child should become unwell in school, we will always err on the side of caution when deciding to send a child home. I would also ask that you only send pupils to school if they are fit and well. If you have any reasons to suspect that your child may not be well, please also err on the side of caution and keep them home. Many thanks.

### **Breakfast Club/Hot lunches.**

We are currently not running a Breakfast Club. Should this situation change we will update you as soon as possible. Currently we kindly ask that all pupils bring a packed lunch to school, and a water bottle already filled with water from home. Many thanks.

Finally, I know that the teachers are all looking forward to seeing all of the children over the next few days. We know that for some pupils this will be a strange time, as they will not have been in school for a considerable time. Please be reassured that we have adjusted our timetables and planning accordingly, to support children gently back into school. We have put in plenty of time for the children to revise known skills, and practice some of those essential skills that they may have forgotten. I am sure that they will have a lovely time with us, and we are all looking forward to getting back to as near normal as possible.

Many thanks

Mrs Arthur.