

# Risca Primary School

## Spring Term Newsletter No 4

Friday 24th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe that the end of the Spring Term is approaching already! This has been a short but busy term and the children have all worked really hard in school. Over the last few weeks, the Senior leadership team (myself, Mrs Farley, Mrs Rees and Mr Bills) have been looking at the children's books and work, and we are really pleased with the progress that the children have made. This term the children have learned through fabulous topics. Our younger children have looked at the seasons and the changes that each season brings, our Year 1 to 3 children have looked at what it takes to be healthy, through the topic of 'A Spoonful of Sugar' and our older pupils, Year 4 to 6, have looked at basic human rights and equality and fairness for all, through the topic of 'Trailblazers'. Well done to all of our children who have worked really hard this term to impress their teachers.



### Free School meals

As you know, our Infant children are now all entitled to free school meals, through a universal roll out, funded by The Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru. We hope that you will all take us up on this offer, as I am sure that this will ease the strain on all family budgets at this time. The roll out for our Junior children will start in September.

Can I please make a plea to all parents. If you are entitled to free school meals, because you are on a low income or in receipt of benefits, **you may be entitled to additional benefits**, such as a uniform grant, or food vouchers during the school holidays.

**Can you please apply online?** The Welsh Government gives all schools a grant of £1,150 for each pupil who is entitled to free school meals. We are very concerned that if parents are getting free school meals as a matter of course, they will forget to register. This could have a detrimental effect on our staffing. Presently we employ additional Learning Support Assistants with the grant, and these members of staff support our

pupils in enrichment activities and small group work for reading, maths and writing. If you believe that you are entitled to free school meals, please go online and register.

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/services/schools-and-learning/school-dinners-and-breakfast-clubs/free-school-meals>

### **Wear Red for Velindre Day**

Thank you to everyone who wore red for Velindre, and gave a donation. We raised an incredible £326.78 for this amazing cause.

### **Red Nose Day**

Thank you to everyone who also supported the Comic Relief non uniform day, we were so pleased that we raised £287.72 for this worthwhile cause.

### **Book Fayre**

Next term we will be holding a book fayre in school hall at the end of the day. Should you wish to come and have a look, the fayre will be held on Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th April. We will only be able to accept Cash or Cheques on the day. Many thanks.

### **Careers Fayre**

On Thursday 30th March, we are having a Careers Fayre for our Year 5 and 6 children. Volunteers from our community are visiting for the afternoon, and chatting to the children about their jobs. From a policeman to a chef, from a nurse to a librarian... they'll explain what their jobs entail and what qualifications they needed to get there. We've even got a farmer bringing his sheep in! It will be a great afternoon.

### **Birthday Celebrations**

We all love to celebrate birthdays at Risca Primary School, and should it be your child's birthday we are very happy for you to bring shop bought cakes to school to share with the class. Please be reassured that we will send these home at the end of the day, to give you the choice of whether your child can eat it. As a healthy school we do not give out cakes during the day, as we know that this can have a detrimental impact on teeth, and it can impact on whether children eat their tea when they get home. I know that some of you will want to perhaps save the cake until after the children have had their tea, whilst some parents will be happy for the child to eat at the end of the day. Please

be aware that whilst we are happy to send cakes home, we do not send home birthday sweets. I am sure that you will support us in trying to support our children to be healthy eaters whilst at school. Many thanks.

### **Pupil Road Safety**

As you know we work very hard at our school to keep children safe at all times. We are increasingly concerned that a small number of parents are dropping off children by parking on the zig-zags outside our school. Please be aware that the zig-zag lines are there to keep our children safe, by keeping all entrances to the school clear of cars. Can I please kindly ask that you not park on the zig-zags when you are dropping children off at school. I am sure that you will understand that the safety of our children is of a high priority to us.

Once again, we have had complaints from our neighbouring residents, who are concerned that a small number of parents are not adhering to the traffic and parking restrictions around the school. Please can I remind you that passage down Graig View is **restricted to residents only** at the beginning and end of school time. We have been so concerned with the number of parents not adhering to the restriction that we have now been advised to ask the Police to monitor this. I know that the residents are also in contact with the Council, and are also going to contact the Police for support. Can I kindly advise you to ensure that you adhere to parking and traffic 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.

### **Uniform**

Many thanks to you who continue to support our children to be well presented in school. We are now giving out our school uniform stickers to those children who come to school smartly dressed in our uniform. Can I please send a gentle reminder that leggings are not a part of our school uniform. Can we kindly ask that children wear a grey skirt or grey trousers. In the summer I am sure that some of our children will wish to wear grey shorts. Many thanks.

### **Choir**

Well done to our lovely choir who took part in the St David's day celebrations in our school, alongside the Risca Male Choir. I know that all teachers were really proud of our children. We would also like to thank the Risca Male Choir for the donation that they gave to us following the concert. It really was very gratefully received.

## **Staffing Changes**

As you are aware, Mrs Thomas is leaving us at the end of this term for bright new adventures. We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Thomas for her 11 years of service to our school and wish her all the best! We would like to welcome Miss Hopkins to our school team, and she will be taking Mrs Thomas' class until the end of the year. You may also have noticed that Mrs Farley is currently teaching our Year 2 class. We are currently recruiting, so Mrs Farley, an experienced year 2 teacher, will continue in that class, until we find a suitable replacement.

## **Free Books**

We are currently revamping and re-organising our learning environments, and sorting through all of our resources. As a result we have some children's books that we no longer need. We are going to offer these to the children to take home should they want them. After that we will pop them outside at the end of a clear day for parents to take should they wish.

## **Training Days**

Please be aware that the Welsh Government has agreed for all schools to have an additional training day this year, to be taken in the summer term. To make things easier for parents we have tacked this additional training day onto the Easter Holiday. Therefore school will be closed on the 17th of April (date already agreed) and now in addition the 18th April (additional day) , and will re-open on the 19th April at the usual time.

Kind regards,

Mrs Arthur and Staff

## **Dates for the Diary**

### March

Tuesday 28th March: Rags to Riches Collection

Tuesday 28th March: Parents Evening

Wednesday 29th March Parents Evening

Thursday 30th March: Careers Fayre Y5 and Y6

Friday 31st March: School term ends : @1.30pm

## April

Monday 17th April: Training day - School closed to pupils

Tuesday 18th April: Training day - School closed to pupils

Wednesday 19th April: School reopens to pupils

Wednesday 19th April: Height/weight screening - Reception class

Monday 24th April: Class Photographs

Monday 24th April: Book fair in the Hall from 3.15pm

Tuesday 25th April: Book fair in the Hall from 3.15pm

## May

Monday 1st May: May Day Bank Holiday

Tuesday 2nd May: Special lunch menu for coronation -details to follow

Monday 9th May: Bank Holiday for King's Coronation

Friday 26th May: Break up for Half Term - 3.10pm