

Risca Primary School

Spring Term Newsletter No 7

Tuesday 26th January 2021



Dear Mums and Dads,

As we enter our third week of school home learning, teachers continue to be really impressed with the work that they are receiving on See-Saw. We are also really pleased with the numbers of pupils who are regularly engaging with our home learning. This is really encouraging. Don't forget that if you are having any problems accessing your child's work we are more than happy to work with you and support you to become familiar with any new processes that you may not be familiar with. This pandemic has rapidly increased the use of technology across all areas of life. We are well aware that for some of us this can be daunting and I would include all school staff in that. Please do not hesitate to ask for support if you need it; we are all learning together at the moment. Should you need guidance we have members of staff who are always available to give you telephone support should you need it.

This week we have to give another big shout out to Mr Bills' class who once again have topped the charts for pupil engagement. In fact 90% of Mr Bills' class were busily engaged in home learning last week. Well done to all of you. However, not far behind on 89% was Miss Ryan's class, and just behind that was Mrs Thomas' class. Well done to all of you who are working so hard. We are really proud of you. I wonder who will top the charts next week?

Don't forget that we are sending certificates to children who are participating well in home learning. Keep an eye out for messages from your teacher, who will be encouraging your child to complete their home learning. We really hope that we can send out more certificates this week.

Critical Worker Support

At Risca Primary School we sincerely wish to work with all parents who require critical worker support, and as you are aware, last week we opened an additional hub class to accommodate all requests for support.

However, following an update meeting with the Local Authority yesterday, can I please reiterate that the Local Authority is clear that during these times of uncertainty, and in a huge push to minimise community transmission, **children are safest at home**. Additionally, we have also received further confirmation from the Local Authority, which is clear that if you are working from home, children are expected to remain in the family home.

We are aware that some parents work in professions whereby they need to conduct confidential meetings at home, and in these circumstances we absolutely understand that under these conditions it would not be appropriate for children to be present, and therefore should you be working from home, we are happy to work flexibly with you to provide you with bespoke support for when you need privacy.

However, in line with the latest information, we will no longer be able to offer full time provision for parents who work from home, and we would kindly ask that if you are a home worker you look at your calendar for next week and prioritise the days that you would need support. As a rule of thumb, for a full time position, we would expect this to approximately 2 days per week support or 3 days in exceptional circumstances. For part time positions we would expect a request for fewer days.

Please be reassured that we are happy to work with you to meet your needs wherever possible, but I would encourage you to start planning your next week around this information.

Don't forget, that in line with Local Authority procedures all children need to be booked into hub classes before the beginning of each week, so I would be grateful if you would look out for that phone call from Mrs Wilmore, who will be happy to chat to you to assess your needs for the forthcoming week. Many thanks.

I know that many of you will be waiting until the end of the week, as the Minister's review of the current pandemic situation is expected. Like everyone, we await the Minister's announcement, but presently we do not expect a rapid return to normal school routines, and therefore we are anticipating that blended learning will continue for the foreseeable future. Naturally, as soon as we have any additional information we will pass that on.

It is great to see the number of parents who are popping into school to pick up more exercise books for pupils. This is really encouraging for all staff. Just a reminder that should you wish to pick up another exercise book for your child from school please let us know via phone or e-mail and we can have exercise books ready for you upon arrival. It is lovely to hear that children are filling up their books with such lovely work, and we are eager to ensure that all children have enough resources at their fingertips to carry on with their home learning.

Don't forget that 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, Many thanks.

On a totally different note, we currently have two vacancies for parent governors. If you are interested in becoming a parent governor, please contact us and we will be happy to chat to you about what that entails and how you can apply. 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. Don't forget we are still at the end of a telephone or e-mail, please get in touch with us should you need any advice or support.

Many thanks

Mrs Arthur and Staff