

Risca Primary School

Back to School Newsletter No 6

8th July 2020



Hi Mums and Dads,

How lovely it has been to see many of our children back in class and having fun with their friends. And how lovely to see you again on the yard dropping your children off. All of the children have bounced into school, and have clearly enjoyed being back with their friends and reconnecting with their teacher. Only one more week to go now before the summer holidays!

You will know that we have returned to school under new strict health and safety routines. Can I thank you all for your understanding and patience? Many of you have had to navigate around our school building in unfamiliar ways. Can I thank you for following our new pathways and adhering to or new procedures? All of the staff are very grateful.

I would also like to thank all of you who have sent us kind messages over the last few weeks. They really are gratefully received.

September

So looking ahead, we are now naturally planning for September. If you read our Twitter feed yesterday, you will have seen that at present we still don't know what September will look like, and therefore we are unable to send any firm messages to you. Presently, the Government has not told us how many pupils can attend school on a daily basis, or the times of the school day. However as soon as we know the Welsh Government's plans, we will inform you of how we plan to move forward.

Like all schools we are now doing a review of our home learning, in preparation for the '*blended learning approach*' that is now recommended by Welsh Government. As such we are updating all staff in new techniques and technologies in order to best prepare them for any new challenges ahead. I know that you will agree that the closure has introduced us all to new technologies, and like all schools, we are working to ensure that we are able to support pupils to access blended learning in the best way that we possibly can.

On that note, can I please give you a quick reminder of the surveys that we sent out yesterday on Twitter and Seesaw? We are looking to improve and consolidate our home learning experiences and your views will help us shape the way forward for September. Many thanks.

Devices at Home

With this in mind, can I give a 'last call' for any families who do not have a suitable device for their children to work on at home? We have a few repurposed devices left which we can share with you. If you feel that you may need a device, please contact the office before the end of term. We are looking to increase the number of 'video' lessons that we deliver next term and therefore it will be important that your child has a suitable device with which to access their home learning.

Staffing Next Year

Our staffing structure is largely the same next year with only a few changes. We are going to be saying goodbye to Miss Dooley from Year 1, who is leaving us at the end of this year. Miss Dooley is going to teach in Australia and we wish her the very best of luck! Miss Ryan from Year 5 will now move into Year 1, and we have a new teacher coming into Year 5; Mrs Bosley. Mrs Bosley is joining us as a new teacher and she has fabulous I.T. skills. I am sure that at this time in particular she will be an invaluable contribution to our school team.

Our structure next year will be:

Nursery - Mrs Williams
Reception - Mrs Skellam
Year 1 - Miss Ryan
Year 2 - Mrs Lewis
Year 3A - Miss Gooding
Year 3B - Miss Bishop/Mrs Rees-Smith
Year 4A - Ms Rees
Year 4B- Mrs Thomas
Year 5A - Miss Bird
Year 5B - Mrs Bosley
Year 6A - Mr Fitton
Year 6B - Mr Bills

As you know usually we have a transition day where pupils all move to their new class. Sadly, we are unable to do this this year. However, below is a table which tells you which class your child will be in next year. Please be aware that we currently have a member of staff shielding and we still have a few staff who are on the vulnerable list. Therefore, depending upon the

health climate next year, this may be subject to change. The current shielding arrangements expire in the middle of August, and therefore presently, like all schools, we are unable to be certain if all staff will be with us in September, and should we need to, we will potentially recruit staff over the summer period.

Current Class	September Class
Nursery - Mrs Williams	Reception - Mrs Skellam
Reception - Mrs Skellam	Year 1 - Miss Ryan
Year 1 - Miss Dooley	Year 2 - Mrs Lewis
Year 2 - Mrs Lewis	Year 3B - Miss Bishop/Mrs Rees-Smith
Year 2 - Ty Isaf	Year 3A - Miss Gooding
Year 3A - Mrs Gooding	Year 4A - Ms Rees
Year 3B - Miss Bishop/Mrs Rees-Smith	Year 4B- Mrs Thomas
Year 4A - Ms Rees	Year 5B - Mrs Bosley
Year 4B- Mrs Thomas	Year 5A - Miss Bird
Year 5A - Miss Bird	Year 6B - Mr Bills
Year 5B - Miss Ryan	Year 6A - Mr Fitton
Year 6A - Mr Fitton	Good luck to all of our Year 6 pupils who I am sure will be fabulous in their new school. We always keep in touch with the new Comprehensive Headteachers and we look forward to hearing about our children's successes in the future.
Year 6B - Mr Bills	

Hub Provision

As you know we are currently operating a Hub for children of key workers. This will finish at the end of term. If your child is in our Hub you should have received communication from the Local Authority which gives details of the Local Authority Provision for the Summer.

Year 6 Pupils

We would like to wish all of our year 6 pupils 'good luck' for their move to their new school. This has been a very unusual end to the year for the year 6 pupils, but we were SO pleased to see so many of them returning for the last few weeks with us. As I have already mentioned, we have close links with the Comprehensive schools in the area, and we look forward to seeing our lovely children in their new settings as soon as things settle down and return to normal. What I will say, is that whenever I see the Headteachers from the Comprehensive Schools, they always say that Risca Primary School children are a credit to our school and their families. I am confident that it will be the same for this year group; we really are very proud of them.

I will be in touch as soon as possible with news for our September opening.

Many thanks,

Mrs Arthur.