

Risca Primary School

Spring Term Newsletter No 1

Thursday 6th January 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

I'd like to start by wishing you all a very happy new year. We hope you all had a healthy and happy Christmas and are very much looking forward to seeing all the children returning to school on Monday.

Important Covid 19 information

As I am sure you are all aware, we are still in the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic and schools are facing many challenges in regards to Covid over the next few weeks and months. This week, all Head Teachers have received further guidance from the Welsh Government (WG) in order to support schools in making changes to their risk assessments and develop contingency plans should they be necessary. The main changes to our school are listed below:

Return to school - Staggered starts/Staggered ends

All RPS children will return to school on **Monday 10th January**. However, in order to ensure the safety of our whole school community, we will be returning to staggered times at the beginning and end of the day, we are hoping that this will only be for a few weeks.

Every morning, the teachers will be on the yard to line the children up as soon as they arrive. This will enable parents/carers to hand over their children and leave the yard promptly. For this to work safely and effectively, teachers need to be able to collect and dismiss the children from the yard in a timely manner, so we would be very grateful if you could try to be on time when dropping off and picking up your children. **When dropping off or picking up your child, please avoid waiting on the yard, instead, please stand on the green astroturf to allow for social distancing.** The details of the new start and finish times can be found in the table below. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding. Unfortunately, this will still need to happen even in

poor weather, so please can we ask that all children wear a winter coat to school every day.

| Year Group | Where does my child line up at the start and end of the day? | Start | End |
|------------|--|---------------|---------|
| Nursery | Nursery yard | 8.40 - 8.50am | 11.20am |
| Reception | Go straight into class | 8.40 - 8.50am | 3pm |
| Year 1 | Go straight into class | 8.40 - 8.50am | 3pm |
| Year 2 | Go straight into class | 8.40 - 8.50am | 3pm |
| Year 3 | On Year 3 yard with teacher | 8.40 - 8.50am | 3pm |
| Year 4 | On main yard with teacher | 8.40 - 8.50am | 3pm |
| Year 5 | On main yard with teacher | 8.50 - 9am | 3.10pm |
| Year 6 | On Year 3 yard with teacher | 8.50 - 9am | 3.10pm |

When considering these changes, we have been very careful to ensure that all pupils continue to receive the statutory teaching times set out by WG.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club **WILL** restart on Monday the 10th of January. After considering our risk assessment, staffing capacity and numbers of children, we are now in a position where we can re-open breakfast club **ONLY** to the children who were accessing it prior to Christmas. Should you wish your child to start breakfast club, please contact the office (even if you have already completed a breakfast club form) so that we can assess numbers and staffing levels.

Other important changes

- Return to class bubbles - there will be no mixing across a year group during lesson times/play or lunch times. Yards will be zoned for play times and lunch times.
- Lunches will return to classrooms. School lunches will still be available as normal, however there may be some tweaks. If your child is a fussy eater, please consider packed lunch for the next couple of weeks as there will inevitably be some changes to the menu.
- Please could all parents and carers wear masks on the yard when dropping the children off and picking up?

Changes to self-isolation arrangements for those identified as contacts of a positive case

- Arrangements on self-isolation have changed. **If identified as a contact of a positive COVID-19 case, all over 18s** who are fully vaccinated (having received two full doses of an approved vaccine) **and children aged 5 to 17, are now asked to take lateral flow tests (LFTs) every day for 7 days.**
- It is recommended that children take their test before they arrive at school each day. If the test is positive, the children must not come into school and they should book a PCR test as soon as possible.
- The position on children under 5 years old remains unchanged - they are not required to self-isolate or test as contacts.
- Primary schools will shortly be receiving an initial supply of LFDs – These tests are being made available to ensure that parents who are **unable to access tests via other routes** are able to access LFDs if their child is identified as a contact.

Class closures

Unfortunately, due to the on-going pressures facing schools, contingency plans have had to be put in place should we be forced to close classes due to staff illness. (We will exhaust every avenue before we do this). Therefore, should we have to close a class we will:

- Communicate immediately with parents via Seesaw.
- Provide Blended Learning for the time your child's class is closed.
- Provide protocols so that the move to Blended Learning is swift, easy and effective.
- Provide Hub places on a very limited basis for children of prioritised critical workers and vulnerable pupils. (Please be aware that even if your child has previously attended a hub, this does not mean they will automatically qualify this time.)
- Please can we ask all parents and carers to sign up to our Seesaw app and let your child's class teacher know if you do not have access to an ipad or laptop.

Finally, can I say a huge thank you for all the support you have given us over the last term, it is very much appreciated, see you Monday!

Many thanks,

Mrs Farley and Staff