

# Risca Primary School

## Autumn Term Newsletter No 3

Thursday 9th November 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely half term break and had some time to enjoy the wonderful Autumn scenery that we can enjoy in and around Risca. We have started this half of the term with a visit from the Children's Laureate for Wales, which many of our children and staff enjoyed. We have a busy half term ahead in the lead up to Christmas so please read this newsletter and pay particular attention to the dates at the end, so that you don't miss anything!

### **School Meal Payments**

There are a small number of children who still have a debt on their Upay dinner account, from before the free meals were introduced. Please can I ask you all to log into Upay and if there is a debt, please pay this amount. Mrs Wilmore will start to contact parents to ensure they are aware of balances that need to be paid.

### **Rags to Riches Collection**

Thank you to everyone who donated to our rags to riches appeal. It raised £70.85.

### **Road Restrictions and Parking**

Some of you will be aware that the Parking Enforcement Officers now routinely patrol the streets surrounding the school and I know a number of our parents have been affected. Please adhere to the restrictions around the school and park in car parks and designated areas, to ensure that you do not receive fines for parking in restricted areas.

## **Christmas Concerts**

As Christmas approaches, we are all really looking forward to our Christmas concerts, as I am sure that you are. The dates and times for the Christmas concerts are as follows:

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December - 1.30pm and 6pm – Year 1 and Year 2

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December - 1.30pm and 6pm – Year 3 and Year 4

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December - 1.30pm and 6pm – Year 5 and Year 6

Tickets will go on sale on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November and will be priced at £2.00 each. As in previous years you will be able to purchase **2 tickets per child**.

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December all remaining tickets will go on general release, on a first come, first served basis.

## **Nursery and Reception Concerts**

This year we are trialling a new format for our Nursery and Reception Classes. We will have two mini concerts on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**, one at 9.30 am and one at 1.30 pm. The concerts will be followed by a 'Play and Stay' event, where you will be invited to stay in the hall with your child to complete some super activities. We will allocate parents two tickets for either an am or pm session. Nursery parents will automatically be allocated a ticket which corresponds to the time that your child is in school: so if your child is in Nursery in the afternoon, you will be allocated tickets for the afternoon concert, and if your child is in Nursery in the morning, you will be allocated a ticket for the morning concert.

To ensure that we have an even split for our Reception pupils, we will allocate Reception parents tickets for either the morning or afternoon concert. Miss Arthur will inform you next week whether you have a morning or afternoon session, to ensure that you have plenty of time to book time off work if necessary.

Nursery and Reception tickets will be available from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November, and will be available from the Reception and Nursery doors.

## **Medication**

Don't forget that we are unable to administer routine medication to children throughout the day. This includes medication such as Calpol, Ibuprofen, antibiotics, antihistamines etc. Should your child need such medication throughout the day, we would kindly ask that a family member comes to administer the medication at lunchtime. Occasionally this year we have found that children have been sent in with painkillers for lunchtime use. As you can imagine this is a worry, as effectively we have had painkillers in bags which could be accessible to other children. I am sure that you will want to work with us

to ensure that all children are safe at all times, and therefore all pupils' bags should be free of medications at all times. Many thanks for your understanding.

### **School Trips**

We have had a lovely time this year, as at last we have been able to restart school trips for our children. Many of our children had a super time at Cardiff Castle and today, our younger children have been to the St Fagans National Museum of History. When going on school trips it is really important that all pupils come along! School trips are always connected to our curriculum, and if children do not come on the trip, they find it very difficult to complete the follow-up work. If your child talks to you about not wanting to come on a trip, can you please work with us and explain to your child that although it's a school trip, it is still a learning day. We want all of our children to have a full school experience and to take part in all of our activities. Should any families have any financial difficulties when paying for trips, please contact the office. We are very happy for families to pay over time and spread the cost of the trip to make it more manageable. Many thanks.

### **Picking Up Children From School**

As you will know, as a school we always want to work with parents to ensure that children are safe at all times. This includes making sure that children are safe on their way to and from school. When arranging for your child to be brought to school, or picked up from school, please can you ensure that your child is accompanied up by a responsible person, who is able to escort them home safely and securely. Guidance states that ideally that person should be over 16 years of age. Occasionally, we have very young children picking up from school, and this is a concern to us. We really need to ensure that anyone picking children up is of an age that they can be responsible for your young children.

### **Appointments To See Staff**

Now that we are back into our usual routines, can I just give a few reminders about appointments and contacts with teachers?

I am sure that you will appreciate that in the mornings, teachers are very busy preparing for the school day, and therefore we all try not to disturb teachers before the morning bell. It is really important that teachers can be fully prepared for the school day before the children arrive. With this in mind, we ask that if you need to see a teacher, please phone the office to make an appointment which is mutually convenient for both you and the teacher. Teachers will rarely be able to see parents in the morning (with the

exception of emergency situations), however, as you will know there will always be a member of staff on the door, who will be happy to pass on messages to the teacher should the need arise.

If you wish to speak to a senior member of staff, then we ask that you telephone the office to make an appointment. Senior members of staff are not always available for immediate consultations, so to ensure that we have someone here to meet your needs we ask that whenever possible an appointment is made.

Naturally, we understand that at times, you may need to speak to the school urgently, and in these circumstances we will always try to accommodate you and find the right member of staff to talk to.

Many thanks,

Mrs Arthur and staff

### **Important Dates**

#### November

Friday 10th - Remembrance Concert in Moriah Church 7pm - (Choir to take part).

Friday 17th: Children In Need Day - information sent on Seesaw

#### December

Friday 1st December - Christmas Fayre 3.15pm in the school hall

Week beginning 11th December: Christmas Concert Week

Week beginning 18th December: Christmas Party Week

Wednesday 20th December - School Christmas dinner day.

Friday 22nd: School finishes at 1.30pm for Christmas