

# Risca Primary School

## Autumn Term Newsletter No 4

Friday 28th October 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy half term! We have enjoyed some lovely activities, as well as some fantastic topics and learning opportunities. I'm sure we are **all** ready for a restful half term break- before we come back for another even busier half term! We have lots planned between now and the end of 2022, and I have listed a number of events below, in order that you don't miss anything.

We are excited to offer our KS2 children a trip to Blackwood cinema, but rest assured KS1 parents, there will be more trips to come in the new year!

### **Harvest Donations**

Thank you to everyone who donated items for our Harvest collection. We passed the items on to Risca Foodbank, who were so grateful. We hope to make another collection for them later in the school year.

### **School Photographs**

On Monday 14th November we have Tempest Photography coming into school for our individual portraits. We will arrange for siblings in school to have their photo taken together, but if you would like to bring other siblings in for group photos you can come in from 8.30am, into the school hall via the main school doors by the Office.

### **Christmas Fundraiser**

Thank you to everyone who ordered something from our recent Christmas card design fundraiser. We were astounded by how many items were ordered and look forward to the items coming into school in November. We will let you know where and when to collect your items, as soon as the stock arrives. Be reassured that the Risca Primary Elves are very busy at the moment preparing your orders!

### **Breakfast Club Changes**

The Breakfast Club staff have informed us that many children are arriving late and do not have enough time to eat their breakfast before the morning bell rings for the start of the school day. Therefore they have made the decision to change the time they close the door to 8.25am. Children arriving after this time will **not be permitted** into Breakfast club. The doors will still open at 8am. Thank You.

### **Poppy Appeal**

We have a range of items on sale in aid of the Royal British Legion. These will be on sale at break times in the foyer, until Friday 11th November. Items have a recommended donation of £1 for snap bands and 50p for wristbands/reflective poppies/zip pulls. We are unable to give change, so please send in the correct amount.

### **Christmas Celebrations**

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, we are pleased to be organising a full range of Christmas celebrations in school this year. Please see below for the dates for concerts and parties.

### **Concerts**

Tickets will be on sale for the concerts week commencing 28th November, and will be priced at £2.00 each. As in previous years you will be able to purchase 2 tickets per child. Then on Monday 6th December all remaining tickets will go on general release, on a first come, first served basis.

### **Christmas Dinner**

Christmas dinner will be on Wednesday 21st December. All dinners must be paid for in advance and using the UPAY App. If you would like your child to have Christmas dinner in school, but you have not yet set up the App, please contact the office to ask for your login details.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, there will be no charge, as these year groups are entitled to free meals, under the WAG's universal roll out of free meals for primary school children.

We will send out more information regarding how to order a Christmas dinner, closer to the time.

### **Christmas Fayre**

On Friday 2nd December at 3.10pm we are holding our Christmas Fayre, in the school hall. We would love for you to join us, for a cup of tea and a mince pie and to hear our school choir, plus you will have the opportunity to purchase items made by your child during 'Enterprise Week'.

We are also asking for your support in other ways. We would like donations of

- New, unused items in their packaging, e.g unwanted gifts, toiletries sets, toys, games, books etc.

- Items that may be suitable for a Raffle Prize e.g tin of biscuits, bottle of wine.
- Good quality Christmas Jumpers - children and adult sizes.
- Boxed cakes/mince pies (use by dates after 2nd December please)

### **Covid**

Another reminder that Covid numbers are increasing again, and we have seen a significant rise in numbers in both staff and pupils. Many thanks to all parents who have informed us when children are poorly with Covid. Again, may I remind you that we are still expected to ensure that classrooms are well ventilated, and therefore at times during the day, we will be popping open windows to 'air' classrooms. If you could please consider this in the mornings I would be very grateful, and if the weather takes a turn it will be important that children are dressed warmly for school, so they aren't cold when rooms are ventilated. Many thanks.

If a pupil tests positive for Covid, then they will need to isolate for 5 days from the day of the test OR the day the symptoms started. In this circumstance, if you could contact the school we would be very grateful, this will allow us to be extra vigilant with all of the other children in the class, and if necessary keep parents fully informed.

### **Attendance**

Given that we know that Covid is still prevalent in our community, we are very mindful that your child's attendance may have already been impacted by a Covid absence. With that in mind it is really important that you contact us to explain any absences, so that we can be fully aware of any extenuating circumstances, which may have affected your child's attendance to date. Mr Bills, our attendance officer, is currently analysing our attendance data and is preparing letters for all children. This will keep you fully informed of your child's attendance to date. As usual we are always keen to work with families to support you to improve your child's attendance. Should you need support, please ask to speak to Mr Bills, and he will contact you when he is able. Many thanks.

### **Rags to Riches Collection**

We have arranged a collection with Rags to Riches. If you have any good quality clothes that you could donate, we will collect up to the **morning of the 25th November**. You can bring donations into school and pass them on to staff on the doors in the mornings. For every Kilogram of clothes we collect, we get 40p. The clothes are then re-used in a number of environmentally friendly ways.

### **Staffing shortages**

Due to the roll out of free school meals to primary age children, CCBC are recruiting a number of Lunchtime supervisors and kitchen staff for many schools, including here at Risca Primary. For more information contact Caerphilly Catering or you can find job adverts on the CCBC website.

There are also a number of vacancies currently available for cleaning staff, again including one here at Risca Primary. These are also on the CCBC website or for more information contact Caerphilly Cleaning Department.

### **Dates for the Diary**

**Friday 28th October:** School breaks up for half term

**Monday 7th of November:** School reopens after half term

**Monday 14th November:** Individual photo day

**Friday 18th November:** Children in Need - non uniform day/ wear something spotty

**Friday 25th November:** Rags to Riches clothes collection

### *Concert Dates:*

**Tuesday 13th December:** Year 5/6 Carol Concert: 1.45 pm and 6.00pm

**Wednesday 14th December:** Year 3/4 Concert: 1.45pm and 6.00pm

**Thursday 15th December:** Year 1/2 Concert: 1.45pm and 6.00pm

**Friday 16th December:** Nursery and Reception Concert: 10.00am

### *Party Dates:*

**Monday 19th December:** Nursery and Reception Party

**Tuesday 20th December:** Year 1/2 Party

**Wednesday 21st December:** Year 3/4 Party

**Thursday 22nd December:** Year 5/6 Party

**Friday 23rd December 1.30pm:** Break up for Christmas holiday

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Arthur and Staff