

Risca Primary School

Autumn Term Newsletter No 4

12th December 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy term we are having! The Christmas Concert practices are well underway and we are now nearly ready to start performing. All of the children have worked so hard on their concerts, I am sure that you will have a fabulous time when you visit the school to see your children on the stage. Don't forget that we still have tickets available for **most** of the performances, so if you need any more tickets contact Mrs Wilmore in the office. Just a quick reminder that you will need tickets for each person attending the concert, including children. We have limited seating available, and it is important that we do not have too many people in our hall at once. Therefore, I would be grateful if you could please ensure that you have tickets for everyone who is attending the performance including children. On a similar note please be aware that we cannot allow buggies and pushchairs into the hall as they can block fire exits and walkways. Therefore should you come with a buggy/pushchair, we will kindly ask that you leave the buggy in our foyer, to ensure that walkways are kept clear at all times. Many thanks for your understanding.

This year, as usual we will be holding a Year 5/6 Carol Service (with a twist!), a Year 3/4 Concert, a Year 1/2 Concert, and a Nursery/Reception Concert (followed by a play and stay session) If you are coming to the Year 3/4 Concert, please be aware that the main parts for this concert have been given to the Year 4 children, and that the Year 3 children form part of our singing choir. Next year, of course, the Year 3 children will have acting opportunities, when they are in Year 4. Don't worry however, all of the children will have an opportunity to get on the stage and shine, I am sure that you will all have a super time!

Christmas Parties

Next week all classes will have a Christmas party. Please see the dates below. These will be held in school time. On the day of your child's party, children are permitted to wear party clothes into school. Please ensure that clothes are sensible, comfortable and suitable for school. Please no crop tops or high heeled shoes.

Air Up Bottles

We have noticed that a small number of children are bringing Air - Up water bottles to school. Please be aware that we cannot take responsibility for such expensive items in school. We are a busy school with many many children, and occasionally some items can get mislaid or lost. I would recommend that all children bring an inexpensive water bottle to school, to avoid disappointment should any water bottle be mislaid. Many thanks.

Children in Need

We enjoyed breaking the rules for Children in Need and raised a terrific £512.34. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Christmas Fayre and Other Fundraising

What a fantastic response we had to our Christmas Fayre. All in all we have raised £1,752 which will go towards providing the children with some new and exciting resources over the next few terms. We are so grateful for the support, and so grateful for all of you who came and bought items from our enterprise week.

We were also pleased to receive £404.87 commission from Tempest Photography. Again all monies will be spent on enhancing the opportunities and provision for our children.

We were also successful in securing £500 from Tesco, from the blue token box competition back in the Summer. Thank you to everyone that voted for us.

Choir Concerts

I am sure that many of you will have seen our choir performing over the last few weeks, whether it be with the Salvation Army, at Moriah Church or in the Risca Park. I am sure that you will all agree that all children have been fabulous, and it is clear that they are developing a love of singing. A big thank you to Mr Thomas who has taken over the running of the choir this year. He really has spiced up the singing and made it so enjoyable for all.

Outside Classrooms

Unfortunately we will be losing our outdoor classrooms in the Christmas holiday, as they have now been deemed beyond repair. We have a firm coming in over the holiday to dismantle them. When they have been dismantled we will be offering the wood out to

anyone in our community who wants it. Look out for a see-saw message in the holiday, when we will inform you when the wood is ready for collection. Many thanks.

PTA

We are always grateful for the hard work of our PTA and the money that they raise. Currently there are only a handful of members on the PTA. If you would like to join the PTA or offer your support at school events, please contact Mrs Wilmore in the office, and she will be happy to pass your details on to the PTA members.

Managing Pupil Disagreements

I am sure that you will be aware that at times pupils in our school will have disagreements with each other. Can I kindly ask that if pupils have disagreements in school that you speak to a teacher and allow us to mediate between children in school time. Occasionally parents have taken to dealing with disagreements themselves on the school yard, and more often than not this can make the situation worse not better.

We fully understand when parents wish to deal with issues that happen outside of school time themselves, but would ask that any school matters be related to the teacher, so that we can deal with them according to our established discipline procedures. Many thanks.

Goodbye Mrs Rees

Many of you will know by now that Mrs Rees has been successful in securing a deputy headship in Cardiff after Christmas. Although this will be a sad time for us, as we will be losing a valued member of staff, we are very proud of Mrs Rees' achievements, and we wish her well in her new job.

We are very lucky to have secured Miss Ambrosen to take over in Mrs Rees' class. Miss Ambrosen, (who works for us on Wednesday/Thursday/Friday in Reception) will teach our Year 4 class on Monday and Tuesday, and Mrs Williams will continue to teach the Year 4 class on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Can I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Many thanks,

Mrs Arthur and Staff

Important Dates

December

Tuesday 12th December - 1.30pm and 6pm – Year 1 and Year 2 Concerts

Wednesday 13th December - 1.30pm and 6pm – Year 3 and Year 4 Concerts

Thursday 14th December - 1.30pm and 6pm – Year 5 and Year 6 Concerts

Friday 15th December - 9.30 and 1.30pm Early years 'Concert, Stay & Play'

Tuesday 19th December - Christmas Party - Year 1 and Year 2

Wednesday 20th December - School Christmas Dinner day.
Christmas Jumper day
Christmas Party Year 3 and Year 4

Thursday 21st December - Christmas Party - Year 5 and year 6

Friday 22nd December - Nursery and Reception Christmas Party . **(NB Please note ALL Nursery children to attend morning session only: 8.50 - 11.20)**

Friday 22nd December - School closes at **1.30pm**

January 2024

8th January - Training Day - School closed to pupils

9th January - School re-opens
Rising threes open evening 3.30pm

February

8th February Years 1 and 2 - Trip to Cardiff Museum

9th February Year 6 Trip to Crucial Crew event

Monday 12th - Friday 16th February - HALF TERM