

Risca Primary School

Spring Term Newsletter No 3

Wednesday 6th January 2021

INFORMATION FOR HUB CHILDREN

Dear Mums and Dads,

Our Hub provision for key worker children is starting tomorrow at 8.50 am. Can I thank all of you who have spoken to us over the last few days, and thank you for your patience and understanding. This has been a challenging time, and we have worked as speedily as possible to contact all parents who were on the list that we received from our Local Authority. I know that many of you have spoken to Mrs Wilmore, and have given us details of your childcare requirements for the next two weeks.

If you have not had an application approved, and spoken to us, and you believe that your child is entitled to a hub place, please make an application to the Local Authority. Be aware that there is currently a backlog of applications and the Local Authority is processing claims as fast as possible. Until applications have been approved we are unable to accept new pupils into our Hub provision as we cannot guarantee that we will have staffing in place for additional children. Please be aware that there are clear criteria for allocating Hub places. As a reminder I have included them below:

- Your child must be of school age and registered at a Caerphilly School prior to the schools closing in Dec 2020.
- One parent is a Coronavirus critical (Key) worker.
- Where there is a second parent/adult in the household they must ALSO be a Coronavirus critical (Key) worker and are required to attend their workplace and the child/children cannot be safely cared for at home.
- You reside within the Caerphilly County Borough.

Our school Hubs will operate on a daily basis and will cover normal school times. Our doors will open at 8.50 and we will close at 3.10. Please can all children arrive at 8.50 prompt as the morning sessions will be structured around completing the blended learning tasks set by class teachers.

Pupils will have an hour for lunch. Any Nursery pupils who may provide successful applications will be allocated the usual Nursery session time of 8.50 to 11.20. Given current numbers, we have separated the bubbles into 3 groups: Infant pupils, Year 3/4 pupils and Year 5/6 pupils. However, please be aware that if pupil numbers rise, we may be unable to guarantee that new pupils will be able to slot into the correct age 'bubble', as we may have to allocate pupils to 'bubbles' which have available spaces. I know that you will understand that it is important for us to keep pupil 'bubble' numbers as low as possible to keep children and staff safe, and reduce the risk of transmission.

Tomorrow, if you could all please assemble on the Junior Yard, we will call children into classrooms from there. As usual we would ask that you follow good social distancing practices when on school site. Pupils will also be asked to spend playtimes and lunchtimes in their 'bubbles'. As we have no catering facilities on site at present, we kindly ask that all pupils bring a packed lunch. We would also ask that pupils bring a filled water bottle to school. I am sure that you are also aware that a vital part of reducing the transmission of the virus is ventilation, and therefore we ask that all children are sent in dressed warmly, with a coat, (and gloves/scarf if necessary). There is no need at the present time for pupils to wear school uniform.

If your child is attending the Hub, please can you prepare them, and explain that they will not necessarily be placed in their old classroom and that they will not be taught by their usual teacher. We have a rota of staff for our Hub classes, and therefore if you could prepare your child to see some different faces over the next week I would be very grateful.

Staff will work with all children to support them to complete their blended learning activities which are set by teachers. We will give the children exercise books for school use. There will be no need for children to bring their home learning books to school, as given the prevalence of the virus we need to minimise any possible transmission between home and school. Our afternoons will be more relaxed and we will provide activities for children when they have completed their online work. Presently we are planning to use our downstairs classrooms. This will give children access to the outdoors throughout the day and ensure that they have ample space to complete their afternoon activities.

If you are awaiting the outcome of an application please keep in touch with school. This is best done via e-mail at the moment. As soon as we receive your application Mrs Wilmore will contact you to ascertain your childcare needs and when approved, add your child's name to our list. I have asked Mrs Wilmore to ensure that all applications fully meet the criteria as listed above, to ensure that all pupils attending meet the criteria. I know that you will all agree that it is important that we prioritise our places for key worker families, to ensure that all of our key workers are able to secure essential provision at this time.

Can I thank those of you who have indicated that you only need part time placements. This is really helpful for us when planning our timetables and rotas. If your work schedule changes week to week please ensure you update staff with your hub requirements.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide full time places for part time key workers. For the next few weeks we want to keep our Hub numbers as manageable as possible in order to minimise the risk of transmission within school and support our community to minimise the risk at home too. Should you wish to pick your child up early from school, please come to the Office and a member of staff will bring your child to you. **Please remember Hub provision is essential cover only.**

For all other parents, don't forget, in terms of blended learning, as usual should you have any difficulty accessing your child's blended learning, please contact your child's teacher via See-Saw. All teachers will be more than happy to support you and your child at this time, and will reply to any queries as soon as possible. Please be aware that all staff are also on the rota to support hub classes, and therefore should there be a delay in your teacher replying, this may be due to the fact that they are supporting a hub class, or tied up in a virtual meeting/briefing. Many thanks.

Blended learning will be uploaded every morning for your child. We aim to have all blended learning uploaded by 9 am.

Should you need to contact school for any other issues, please contact us via e-mail until further notice. rispa@caerphilly.gov.uk We will then contact you by telephone to discuss your enquiry. Many thanks.

Once again, can I please thank you for your support and patience. I know that it is very difficult for families to plan ahead at this time, as the information that we are working with is changing very rapidly. Please be reassured that we will work very hard to ensure that you have the latest information from the Local Authority, from us and from the Welsh Government.

Many thanks

Mrs Arthur and Staff