

# Risca Primary School

## Summer Term Newsletter No 4

Monday 21st June 2021

Dear Mums and Dads,



Suddenly we are all heading towards the end of term and for teachers it seems as though this is all happening very quickly! As you know we have a number of lovely things time-tabled for the next few weeks, such as Risca University Week and Healthy Week and we hope that the children enjoy these super activities that we have planned.

### **New Curriculum**

As an update to our plans for the new curriculum, you will be aware that in 2022, we will be embarking on an exciting new Curriculum for Wales. You will know that we are currently re-writing our curriculum and planning for some significant changes within our school. We have now re-written our timetables to ensure that when children come back to school in September our timetables are well balanced in order to ensure that all pupils have the appropriate time for each area of the curriculum.

One of the overarching areas of the new curriculum is wellbeing. I am sure that you will agree that it is really important that we support pupils to be physically and mentally healthy. To embed this into our curriculum from September we will be holding a Feel Good Friday afternoon for our children from year 2 to year 6. This will enable all of the children in these year groups to have access to a range of activities to support their mental and physical health. We are currently finalising our programme, but we are able to share with you that pupils will be able to take part in a range of activities such as cooking, music, art, mindfulness, yoga, games, gardening and environmental activities. We are currently developing this programme, and we aim to have it up and running as soon as possible after the September return to school. For our younger children we are currently continuing to further develop our outdoor provision and ensure that all of our pupils in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 have opportunities for regular weekly Forest Schools lessons.

To support pupils' physical fitness we are also introducing short burst exercise sessions throughout the day, and we are currently researching resources such as Joe Wicks classroom exercise videos to support us to provide meaningful short burst exercise classroom activities.

In addition to revising our timetables, we are also looking at the very best practice from our current Foundation Phase and looking for opportunities to take that best practice into our Junior department. We are in the process of developing enhanced provision areas throughout the school to allow pupils to deepen their understanding of their topic work in a meaningful and independent manner. We are still awaiting some resources and furniture for these areas, and we will send photos home of our new corridor areas via newsletter.

### **Next Year**

As you know we are still working to current Covid Government guidelines and we are unable to predict how those guidelines will change in the future. Therefore we are sadly unable to predict whether we will be continuing our staggered starts and finishes in September. We are also not yet able to commit to running a breakfast Club in September. For us, running a Breakfast Club is really challenging, as we have so many pupils that attend, that we cannot possibly avoid the mixing of bubbles. We know that the Welsh Government is continuing its cautious approach to lifting lockdown restriction, especially in the light of the increased transmissibility of the new Delta Variant, and we will continue to work within the guidelines to ensure that we do the very best for our children. Please be reassured that we will keep you up to date with any changes that occur over the next few weeks in order that you can prepare as best as possible for the future.

### **Transition**

As you will be aware we have had to alter our usual transition procedures this year to ensure that we continue to be Covid secure. You will know that we still have to adhere to strict protocols as outlined by our Local Authority Risk Assessment, and that our priority remains to keep our pupils and community safe in the current climate. In particular, sadly, we will be unable to hold our usual parent transition meetings due to the current Covid restrictions, and additionally, we are unable to host new pupils to our school prior to September, as this would naturally break bubbles and contact groups between schools.

We have now recorded some transition videos for our Nursery, Reception and Year 3 pupils, which we will share with you in a separate transition newsletter. We would also like to invite parents of our Nursery, Reception and Year 3 pupils to a 'Meet and Greet Session'. Please feel free to bring your children to the sessions, so that they have an opportunity to meet their new teacher. This will allow you and your child to meet and greet the teacher, and you will be able to pick up all of the information that you will need prior to your child joining our school. The times and dates of 'Meet and Greet' sessions are:-

Wednesday 7th July: Nursery and Reception pupils 1pm to 3 pm.

Year 3 pupils 3.30 pm to 5 pm

As a reminder, you will be aware it is our usual custom to mix the Ty Isaf and Risca Primary pupils when they arrive in Year 3. However, we are aware that as our transition activities will be curtailed this year, this may not be the best option. Therefore, for Ty Isaf pupils, once again, this year we will keep all Ty Isaf pupils in the same class. We hope that this will ease the transition for the pupils and give them the security of being in the same class as all of their friends. We will then mix the classes as the children move into Year 4. Please be reassured that we will as usual liaise with the teachers from Ty Isaf to ensure that all pupil information is transferred to us so that we can do our very best for your child from September.

### **Communication With School/New Delta Variant**

You will be aware that this week that we had to close a class as we had a positive Covid case in Year 1. Can I please urge all parents to be extra vigilant in monitoring their child's health. Should you suspect that your child has a case of Covid 19, or if you or one of your family is being tested for Covid 19, it is really important that you inform us immediately, in order that we can work to keep our community safe. Presently, during working school hours please notify the office if your child has a confirmed or a suspected case of the virus. If school is closed please notify us through your child's See-Saw account. As we are now using See-Saw during evenings and weekends to notify us of positive cases of Covid 19, we would be grateful if you could refrain from using See-Saw for general messages to the teacher. If you have general queries about school matters please now contact the school office. Many thanks.

### **Suncream**

As the sun is now shining, can I please give a reminder about applying suncream to your child before school. We would recommend factor 50, once a day cream to ensure that your child is fully protected from the sun. We would also recommend that pupils wear a sun hat, and if necessary a light long sleeved item of clothing which may be worn on the yard. We do not have staff available to supervise pupils applying suncream or apply suncream for pupils, and therefore all suncream must be applied before the start of the school day. Many thanks for your understanding.

### **Important Dates**

Week beginning 21st June - Years 2 and Year 3 Personalised assessments

Week beginning 28th June: Years 4, 5 and 6 Personalised assessments

Week beginning 5th July: Risca University Week

Wednesday 7th July: Meet and Greet Day: Nursery and Reception pupils 1pm to 3 pm.  
Year 3 pupils 3.30 pm to 5 pm

Week beginning 12th July: Sports week / Healthy school week

Wednesday 14th July : Year 6 leavers celebrations.

Thursday 15th July: Snoopy Day: 'Own Clothes Day'

Training Days: Friday 16th July, Monday 19th July, Tuesday 20th July:

**School closes for the Summer holiday: Thursday 15th July**

Once again can I thank you for your patience and understanding and thank all of you who continue to work with us to do the best for all of our children in these difficult times. Many thanks

Mrs Arthur and Staff