

Risca Primary School

Spring Term Newsletter No 5

Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Mums and Dads,

A big thank you to all of you who have worked with us this week and supported your child with blended learning. We are extremely grateful for all of the support that you are giving to us, and your child. I know that these are not easy times, and I am well aware that supporting your child's learning is not always an easy task. A big thank you also to all of you who have given us feedback during telephone calls this week. If you haven't had a telephone call with your child's teacher this week, then look out for a see-saw message next week. We will See-Saw you a few days before your 'telephone day' to let you know to expect a call.

By now you and your child will know what work to expect over each day and you will also have an understanding of how work is planned over the week. Broadly we are setting three formal pieces of work each day supplemented by a 'lighter' activity which can be completed at the end of the day.

As a school, we are very aware that all families are currently managing different workloads and therefore will have different capacities to support their children. We are well aware that a number of you may be working from home and trying to balance your child's learning. Additionally, we also know that there is a huge difference between managing work for one child at home as compared with maybe managing the work for three children at home.

In short, we know that every family is working under very different circumstances at the moment, and we are very mindful of this. We know that as a community we are all individually doing our best under very difficult circumstances and we are very grateful for all of your support to date.

Many parents that we have spoken to over the last few days have given us positive feedback on the online learning that has been set this week. Many are pleased that we are giving enough work to keep pupils occupied and engaged throughout the day. We have also had conversations with some parents who have noted that due to their current circumstances they are finding that the work set is a lot for them to manage. If you are in this situation, please chat to your child's teacher, and please don't worry about this.

If you need to be selective when choosing blended learning tasks with your children we would kindly ask that you prioritise English and maths work before other tasks. If we can get nearly all



children to complete their English and maths tasks this will ensure that we keep those essential basic skills moving forward. By doing this we can continue to minimise the disruption to children's learning as much as possible. I know that we would all agree that this is really important, and for those of you who are finding it hard to fit in your child's blended learning, we hope that this will support you to choose the right tasks to support your child.

I know that a few 'busy bees' have got to the end of their exercise books already!! Well done you! If you wish to pick up another book from school please let us know via e-mail and we can have exercise books ready for you upon arrival. It is lovely to hear that children are filling up their books with such lovely work.

A number of parents have asked if we are able to upload our blended learning the night before tasks are set for the children, in order to allow you time to browse the tasks and familiarise yourself with the learning. I have spoken to the Senior Leadership Team and they have reassured me that staff will be more than happy to upload the tasks the night before, and therefore from today, all staff will start uploading tasks by 5pm. I hope that this will be welcomed, and will support you to prepare your child for the day ahead.

As a reminder we are all now aware that there is significant concern that schools are contributing to the transmission of the virus within the community and therefore it is important that we do all we can to keep our community safe. Therefore, as a school we are attempting to strike the fine balance of running our school effectively, whilst adhering to the Welsh Government guidance of supporting staff to work from home where possible. By doing this we hope to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus within the building, and between staff, and, in turn, prevent the risk of transmission back into the community.

Don't forget that to limit the possibility of community transmission school is currently running with a skeleton staff on site, with all staff having designated time to attend school and designated times to prepare and mark work from home. If you telephone school and you are unable to get an answer, our answerphone message gives clear instructions for contacting school, which includes e-mail and an alternative telephone number. Can I ask that messages come to school via e-mail where possible, as this allows us to prioritise our responses according to urgency. Many thanks.

Once again, we are currently processing our latest round of applications for critical worker provision. Please do not send your child to a Hub class if you have not had a telephone conversation with one of our members of staff. Your application will need to be further assessed to ensure that your application meets the strict criteria and we will need to ascertain your needs. If you have a child in one of our hub classes, or you have submitted a recent application, please ensure that you read the [Emergency Hub Class Provision](#) letter which was sent out earlier today. Many thanks.

Don't forget that should your child have a positive coronavirus test whilst in school please contact us as soon as possible, via See-Saw. E-mail or telephone in order that we can start self

isolation procedures immediately, and where possible limit any potential transmission, Many thanks.

Once again can I thank you for your patience and understanding, and thank all of you who have worked with us over the last week to ensure that our first week of January was as smooth as possible. Don't forget we are still at the end of a telephone or e-mail, please get in touch with us should you need any advice or support,

Many thanks

Mrs Arthur and Staff.