

# Risca Primary School

## Summer Term Newsletter No 1

Monday 19th April 2021



Dear Mums and Dads,

I can't believe that it is already the Summer term, and although it has been cold over Easter it has been lovely to have a bit of sunshine too! Let's hope that the sun continues to shine to cheer us all up over the next few weeks.

We are now planning for the term ahead, You will of course be aware that our usual timetables and schedules have been totally disrupted this year, so we are now planning ahead to see what we can fit into the remaining term. Naturally, all activities will have to fit with the current Welsh Government Covid Guidelines.

Look out later in the newsletter for dates for parental consultations. As in the Autumn term we will be doing these via the telephone to ensure the safety of all concerned.

### **Communication With School**

As more pupils are now returning to school, and the restrictions on our community are lifted, we are aware that it is possible that we may see a rise in the number of suspected or confirmed Covid 19 cases in school. Therefore it is important that we re-establish good protocols for reporting either suspected or confirmed Covid cases, and we want everyone to be aware of the methods of communication with the school, whether it be in school time, evenings or weekends. Presently, during working school hours please notify the office if your child has a confirmed or a suspected case of Covid 19. 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.

### **Punctuality**

As you know at Risca Primary School we encourage all pupils to arrive at school on time. Our lessons start immediately in the morning, and the very first minutes of our day are used to reinforce spellings, handwriting and reading. If your child is late to school they will miss these very essential aspects of our curriculum. We are noticing that as we now have staggered starts,

and our doors are open for longer, that a small number of pupils are arriving persistently late to school. Please can I give a gentle reminder of school start times These are:

Nursery - 8.50 am

Reception/Year 1/Year 2 - 9.10 am

Year 3 and 4 - 9.00 am

Year 5 and 6 - 8.50 am

I am sure that you will agree that it is really important that pupils do not regularly miss reading, writing and spelling activities. I know that all staff are working very hard to ensure that pupils have really good opportunities to move forwards in their basic skills, and we are so pleased with the progress that children are making. I would kindly ask that we work together to ensure that your child does not fall behind in these important elements of the curriculum. Many thanks.

### **Mobile Phones In School**

As you know we are trying to minimise the movement of pupils around the school in line with the Welsh Government Covid Guidance. This has impacted on many aspects of our organisation. We are aware that at times it may be necessary for pupils to bring mobile phones to school in certain circumstances, however presently we are kindly asking that pupils only bring mobile phones into school where absolutely necessary. As you know, we do not allow pupils to keep mobile phones in the classroom and we have a long established protocol of storing all mobile phones in the school office. As we are trying to minimise movement around school, we need to keep the number of pupil mobile phones to a minimum, to reduce the number of pupils attending the office on a daily basis. Many thanks for your help and support in this matter.

### **Mobile Phones at Home**

Sadly we are having an increasing number of parents who are contacting us to report unkind behaviour between pupils via Messenger and Whatsapp. This is happening out of school hours. Particularly distressing is the fact that we are aware that some pupils are not only being unkind to each other when using their mobile phones at home, but a small minority of pupils are using particularly offensive language. Can I ask that if your child is using a mobile phone that you talk to your child about appropriate behaviour, and about using appropriate language. We really have been shocked by some of the reports that we have had, and we want to try to ensure that our pupils have happy friendships both at school and whilst at home.

### **School Uniform**

As you are aware all shops have now opened and as a reminder, that includes Darren Morgan's shop in Crosskeys which stocks our school uniform. As you are aware, we now have a new school logo and the new Uniform is ready for purchase. Please do not replace uniform until your child has grown out of it. We are very happy to have an elongated transition between uniforms, but if you are ready to purchase new uniform our now logo is now available. Over the next few

weeks we will be beginning to chat to the children about school uniform again and beginning to reinstate our school uniform stickers and our uniform bear. I know that our children are really proud of our uniform and we pride ourselves in the appearance of our children. In fact visitors to school often comment on how smart our children are. Don't forget that within our community we also have two providers who now stock good quality second hand/recycled school uniform. We all know that often children grow out of uniform when it is barely used, and it is great that we have two outlets in our community who are recycling nearly new items. These are the Eco Friendly Store on Risca High Street and the RCV Charity ([www.rcvuk.org](http://www.rcvuk.org)) who also run a school uniform recycle shop.

### **Breakfast Club**

We have had a few enquiries about Breakfast Club. Unfortunately, we are currently unable to reinstate breakfast club, as we are unable to run the club and meet current Welsh Government Covid Guidelines. However, we have free fruit available for all children who wish to take it, as a replacement interim scheme.

### **Fit and Well**

Once again, just a reminder that presently we are only able to accept children into school if they are **100% fit and well**. This is in accordance with the advice issued by PHW and the Aneurin Bevan Health Board. Should your child be at all unwell, we would kindly ask that you keep them home, and should children present as unwell in school we will ask for them to be picked up at the office.

Additionally, as we mix more, Covid-19 precautions remain necessary to stop transmission. As a school we remain on high alert. Now, as restrictions are eased, we have been reassured that getting a test is easy and often results are back within hours. If you are feeling generally unwell, it could be Covid-19, and we would urge you to book a test immediately, to always be on the safe side. I am sure that you will understand that presently we are very keen to ensure that all in our community are kept as safe as possible, whilst the vaccination roll out continues. Many thanks.

### **Parents Evening**

This term we will be holding parents evenings on Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th May. Your child's teacher will contact you nearer the date to organise a time and day for your consultation. Look out for the samples of your child's work which we will send home prior to the consultation. This will give you an idea of your child's progress to date. The samples will be sent home via your child's see-saw account.

## **Face Coverings**

We have had a number of concerns reported to us about parents on school site who are not wearing face coverings. Please be aware that in order to adhere to Welsh Government Guidance all visitors to our school site **must** wear face coverings. This includes our whole school site, including our yards. Please can you ensure that you are wearing a face covering when dropping off and picking up your children. It is really important that we all work together to keep each other safe and ensure that we do not make members of our community anxious when visiting our site. Many thanks.

## **Fund Raising Day**

As you know we usually have a fund-raising event every year for Velindre hospital, however, this year we are going to have a slight change and have a fundraiser for the charity LATCH. LATCH is a local charity which supports children and families in Wales who are being treated in the Oncology Unit at the Children's Hospital for Wales. We are aware that LATCH is a huge support for children and families, and it was integral in supporting one of our pupils, Nathan Chappell, who sadly lost his life to cancer in 2019. I know that families who have accessed support from LATCH are very grateful for the wide ranging support that they receive, and it seems fitting as a school that this year we support not only a children's cancer charity, but one which has made a huge impact on our school community as a whole. To raise funds we will have an "own clothes day" on Friday 28th May. All contributions to be in aid of LATCH.

## **Important Dates**

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May  
Parents evening: Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th May  
LATCH Charity "Own Clothes Day": Friday 28th May  
Half Term: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June.

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