



Rhiwbeina Primary School



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2009

It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back to school. The children including those new to the school are settling well and we are all looking forward to an enjoyable and successful year.

On behalf of myself and my staff, thank you for the countless gifts we received at the end of last year. Also for the generous donations to the school from some Y6 parents to mark the end of their association with our school.

2009 / 10 Academic Year

SCHOOL TERM DATES

TERM	TERM BEGINS	HALF TERM BEGINS	HALF TERM ENDS	TERM ENDS	NUMBER OF SCHOOL DAYS
Autumn Term	Wednesday 2 Sept 2009	Monday 26 Oct 2009	Friday 30 Oct 2009	Tuesday 22 Dec 2009	75
Spring Term	Monday 4 Jan 2010	Monday 15 Feb 2010	Friday 19 Feb 2010	Friday 26 Mar 2010	55
Summer Term	Monday 12 Apr 2010	Monday 31 May 2010	Friday 4 June 2010	Monday 19 July 2010	65

TOTAL DAYS 195

May Day Monday 3rd May 2010.

Family Holidays

The holiday dates for this academic year are listed above. Some of you are already engaged in booking your next holiday. Where possible, it is desirable that family holidays are taken outside term time. Where this is not possible, request forms for up to 10 days annual holiday are available from the School Office.

Long weekends are regarded as unauthorised absences.

Attendance/Punctuality

Headteachers are required to monitor rigorously both regular attendance and punctuality.

Attendance

This year pupil attendance is recorded electronically. If your child is absent you will receive a phone call on the first day to ascertain the reason for absence if you have not informed my administrative staff or the class teacher.

Punctuality

Learning is Cool – Be early for School!

School begins at 8.55am. If you arrive after this time please take your child to the main front entrance.

For the safety and security of the children all other doors will be closed and cannot be accessed from outside.

Staffing

Sadly we said goodbye to Mrs Grimes and Mrs Green.

The classes and staff for 2009/10 are as follow

6T	Mr Thomas	2B	Mrs Brown
6L	Mr Leyshon	2S	Miss Smith
6S	Miss Short	2D	Mrs Davies
5H	Mr Harding	1D	Mrs Deacon
5BH	Miss Harries	1H	Mrs Hadley
5PG	Mrs Pugh	1L	Mrs Lambert
4D	Mrs Davies	R1	Mrs Parr
4P	Miss Pearce	R2	Mrs Nash
4H	Mrs Morris / Mrs Hughes	R3	Miss Bracken
3E	Mrs Evans	Nursery	Miss Thomas
3S	Mr Sweetnam		
3G	Mrs Hollister		

Teaching Assistants

Nursery Mrs Davies, Mrs Lewis, Mrs Jones, Mrs Dunn, Mrs Rich, Mrs Whitten

Reception R1 Mrs Evans, Mrs Bricknell

R2 Mrs Holden, Mrs Jones

R3 Mrs Morgan, Mrs Coray

1D Mrs Knight / Mrs Gardner

1L Mrs Williams

1H Mrs Harray

KS 2 Mrs Knight, Mrs James

Special Needs

Mrs John and Mr Brewer will provide additional support for some pupils following an analysis of the end of year targets. You will be invited to meet Mrs John and Mr Brewer in the near future if your child is to receive support.

Children with English as a second language will receive support from Mrs Frost.

School meals

Can I kindly remind you that dinner money is collected on a Friday morning. Cheques should be made payable to Cardiff County council (£8.50 weekly). Mrs Moore only works part time and your co-operation in sending monies on Friday morning will be really appreciated. You can of course pay monthly, half termly or termly if you wish (please ring the office for details). **Your child can switch from sandwiches to school meals and visa-versa at any time during the year, but please provide one weeks notice as the cook's ordering procedures are one week in advance of meals consumed.**

Please help us to maintain our status as a Healthy School and send only fruit/drinks for breaktime.

Dinner Lady Vacancy

If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in the post of a midday supervisor please contact my administrative staff for further details.

Breakfast Club

Our free breakfast Club is extremely popular and runs from 8.15-8.55 daily. If you wish to enrol your child at any time, either for the whole or part of a week, please request an enrolment form from the School Office.

Reception Children R1 R2 R3

School Meals and the Breakfast Club will be available from **Thursday October 1st** when the children have settled into the school routines. Please complete the form attached if you wish your child to begin school lunches on October 1st.

Class Games/PE kit

Games and physical education are compulsory lessons and important aspects of the curriculum. **I would be grateful if you could ensure that your children have their games/PE kit on the appropriate days.** Unfortunately some of our children frequently have no kit, putting the blame squarely on Mum/Dad for not putting it in their bags! Reminders will be sent!

Please ensure your child has a plain white T shirt and black, grey, navy colour shorts for PE and warm joggers and top for Outdoor games during the winter months.

Games this year

Y3	-	Monday
Y4	-	Tuesday
Y5	-	Wednesday
Y6	-	Thursday
Y1	-	Thursday
Y2	-	Friday
Rec	-	Wednesday

PE Lessons

Y6	6T Monday	6L Monday	6S Tuesday
Y5	5H Friday	5PG Friday	5BH Tuesday
Y4	4D Wednesday	4H Monday	4P Friday
Y3	3E Wednesday	3H Wednesday	3S Tuesday
Y2	2S Thursday	2D Thursday	2B Thursday
Y1	1L Tuesday	1H Monday	1D Monday
	R1 Thursday	R2 Thursday	R3 Tuesday

If your child is unable to participate for medical reasons please provide a note of explanation for the teacher.

School Visit

The Revised National Curriculum for 2008 onwards firmly focuses on learning outside the classroom. Class visits linked to the class topics will be arranged throughout the year. If you are in receipt of Income Support (entitled to free school meals) there will be no charge for the visits.

Volunteer Helpers Classroom Assistance

Some parents have kindly offered to help in classes for one session every week. If you have any free time and would like to help us this year, please telephone the school office with the day and time most suitable for you. Your assistance is of great benefit to the staff and children.

School Grounds > Ground Force

We have worked hard to develop our school grounds to enhance the learning opportunities we offer the children. However, a high level of maintenance is required to keep the various areas under control. If you would be prepared to assist the staff in any of our 'Ground Force' sessions we would be delighted to see you. The first ground force sessions are scheduled for **Saturday 26th September 9.30 – 11.30 a.m.**, **OR 2 – 4 p.m.** and **Tuesday 6th October 1.15 – 3.15 p.m.**

Reading Schemes KS 2

As previously notified by Mrs Matthew between one third and half of our reading books in years 4,5,6 were not returned to school; resulting in insufficient books remaining to operate the scheme. I allocated over £6,000 last year to purchase brand new books and do not have sufficient funds this year to replace books at this level of funding. Your children will still have access to paired and group reading books, but not an individual reading book until I can resolve the situation. The Book Amnesty, I hope will see many of our books returned.

Foundation Phase

The Foundation Phase teaching and learning philosophy introduced into all Cardiff Nursery Schools last year will be extended to the Reception classes this year. Both year groups are planning stimulating learning experiences for your children. The Foundation Phase will be formally introduced into Y1 in September 2010 and Y2 in 2011. However, the principles and philosophy are being embraced in Y1 and Y2, but the staffing ratio will not be available until 2010 /11.

Dates to Note

Inset Days

The Inset Days for the Spring term are Monday and Tuesday 4th and 5th January 2010.

<u>Open Evenings</u>	Juniors 9 th November	17 th November
	Infants 10 th November	16 th November
	Nursery 12 th , 14 th , 20 th , 22 nd October	

School photographer

The School photographer will be in school on Thursday 22nd October to take individual/family photographs. Brothers and Sisters in school will be photographed together.

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The Friends of Rhiwbeina work extremely hard to raise funds to enhance the range of equipment we offer the children. Details of their events will appear shortly. Please offer whatever support you can.

Parking

I have been asked to remind you that parking in the Memorial Hall and Recreation Club is for members only. Dangerous parking could cost a child's life. Please be vigilant around the perimeter of the school.

Dogs on School premises

Please adhere to the LEA policy that **only guide dogs** are allowed on School premises.

Bikes and scooters

If your child rides a bike / scooter to school please ensure they do not ride them inside the school gate. I have received several complaints from parents of children being totally unaware of the safety of adults and children in a congested area. I have done my best to relieve the congestion outside the Y2 entrance. Please try and keep this narrow area clear for parents and children entering and leaving school, not as a waiting area for children.

Swine Flu

During the Autumn term the evidence suggests that flu will be circulating in our communities and we will expect to see cases in schools.

Medical advice strongly recommends that if your child is ill with flu like symptoms you must keep them at home until they are fully recovered. Siblings and other household members who are well can continue to come to school. Public health opinion is that closing the school will not help to slow the spread of the virus as pupils could still be exposed outside the school.

Symptoms of flu include a fever, cough, sore throat, aching muscles, sneezing, fatigue, runny nose and lack of appetite. Some people with swine flu have also reported vomiting and diarrhoea.

For most children swine flu is a mild illness. However, if you think you or your child may have flu and want to check the symptoms call the Swine Flu Information Line on 0800 1 513 513. If you are still concerned contact NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

Everyone can play their part in reducing the spread of flu by practicing good hygiene:

- Washing hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of virus from your hands to face or to other people.
- Cleaning hard surfaces (e.g door handles) frequently using a normal cleaning product.
- Covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue when possible.
- Disposing of dirty tissues promptly and carefully.
- Making sure children follow this advice.

These hygiene rules will be emphasised in school.

Kind Regards

MRS C A HARRY
Headteacher

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Reception Pupils only

School Meals

I wish my child Class to begin school meals on
Thursday 1st October.

Signed

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