

**Rhiwbeina
Primary
School**



**Ysgol
Gynradd
Rhiwbeina**

Headteacher : Mrs. C. Harry
Prifathrawes

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

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.

From Mr and Mrs Coles to mark the 17 years their four children were happy and successful in Rhiwbeina; A Green House for our Gardening Club. From Mr and Mrs Claydon £300 to assist us in developing our school grounds further in recognition of the opportunities given to their three children in our School.

2008/09 Academic Year

SCHOOL TERM DATES

TERM	TERM BEGINS	HALF TERM BEGINS	HALF TERM ENDS	TERM ENDS	NUMBER OF SCHOOL DAYS
Autumn Term	Monday 1 Sept 2008	Monday 27 Oct 2008	Friday 31 Oct 2008	Friday 19 Dec 2008	75
Spring Term	Monday 5 Jan 2009	Monday 16 Feb 2009	Friday 20 Feb 2009	Friday 3 April 2009	60
Summer Term	Monday 20 April 2009	Monday 25 May 2009	Friday 29 May 2009	Monday 20 July 2009	60

TOTAL DAYS 195

NB: EASTER SUNDAY 12 APRIL 2009; SPRING BANK HOLIDAY 25 MAY 2009

- i. **Monday 1 September 2008** designated an INSET day for **all Community Schools**. There will be **six** further INSET days during the year.
- ii. All schools will be closed on **Monday 4 May 2009** for May Day Bank Holiday.

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 other doors will be closed.

Staffing

Sadly we said goodbye to Miss McNabney, Miss Mathers and Mr Hammond and ‘hello’ to Mrs H Grimes and Mrs Y Hollister.

The classes and staff for 2008/09 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 Green/Mrs Pugh	1L	Mrs Lambert
4D	Mrs Davies	R1	Miss Di Mauro
4P	Miss Pearce	R2	Mrs Thomas
4H	Mrs Hollister	R3	Mrs Parr
3E	Mrs Evans	Nursery	Miss Bracken
3S	Mr Sweetnam		
3G	Mrs Grimes		

*Mrs Pugh will be returning from Maternity leave shortly, her place being covered by Mrs E Hughes for the present.

Special Needs

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

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 (£8.00 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. 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. The Welsh Assembly Government leaflet Healthier lunchboxes is attached.

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 Monday 29th September when the children have settled into the school routines.

Class Games/PE

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 plain colour shorts for PE and warm joggers and top for Outdoor games during the winter months.

Games this year

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

PE Lessons

Y6	6T Tuesday	6L Tuesday	6S Wednesday
Y5	5H Monday	5PG Thursday	5BH Monday
Y4	4D Thursday	4H Thursday	4P Monday
Y3	3E Wednesday	3G Wednesday	3S Tuesday
Y2	2S Friday	2D Friday	2B Friday
Y1	1L Tuesday	1H Wednesday	1D Monday
	R1 Monday	R2 Tuesday	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 an ambitious programme of developing our school grounds to enhance the learning opportunities we offer the children. If you would be prepared to assist in any of our 'Ground Force' sessions please forward your email or telephone number to the School Office. As the dark nights approach the sessions will probably be on a Saturday morning.

Reading Schemes

During the Summer term we introduced a wonderful new range of reading books to the Juniors and Y2 Infant children. The children are really enjoying the new books and the reading ages of the children have risen as a result, which is most pleasing. The new books have now arrived for our Reception and Y1 children. The books need classifying into the different reading colour bands. Consequently the children in Reception and Y1 will not be bringing home a reading book from School for two or three weeks. Please be patient. They will still have access to all the Class Topic and Picture books and hopefully you can introduce them to the local library.

Foundation Phase

You will have read a lot in the media about the Introduction of the New Foundation Phase. Unfortunately the Welsh Assembly Government funding was insufficient for Cardiff Schools to introduce the initiative fully in the Nursery and Reception classes with the level of staffing required – 1 member of staff for every 8 pupils.

This has been fully funded in all Cardiff Nursery Classes this year.

Our Nursery staffing is as follows:-

Miss S Bracken	Nursery Teacher
Mrs J Davies)	
Mrs T Miles)	Teaching Assistants
Mrs C Jones)	
Mrs C Lewis)	

The Nursery team are certainly placing some exciting learning experiences for our youngest pupils.

Despite the level of funding in the Reception classes, we are moving towards the principles of the Foundation Phase in our Reception, Y1 and Y2 classes. You will notice the development of the new outdoor areas in Y1. Hopefully the full funding will be available for the Reception classes in 2009/10.

<u>Teaching Assistants</u>	R1	Mrs Dunn
	R2	Mrs Evans
	R3	Mrs Harrhy
	1D	Mrs Corey
	1H	Mrs Morgan
	1L	Mrs A Knight/Mrs T Gardner
	Y2	Mrs K Williams

Dates to Note

Inset Days The first Inset days of this year are scheduled for Thursday and Friday 23rd and 24th October. The remainder will be communicated as soon as arrangements are finalised.

Open Evenings

Juniors	18 th and 20 th November
Infants	17 th and 19 th November
Nursery	3 rd /5 th /10 th /12 th November.

The School photographer will be in school on Tuesday 21st October to take individual/family photographs. Brothers and Sisters will be photographed together.

Finally 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.

Kind Regards

MRS C A HARRY
Headteacher