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Date: 05.12.2022

Dear RPPS Families,

Croeso i Rhagfyr! Welcome to December! The weather has finally changed to reflect this time of year and there is a huge amount of excitement for all of the events we have planned leading into the Christmas break.

I have provided some key information and outlined all of the upcoming dates and events below. Please let me know if you have any queries in the lead up to these events.

Christmas Concerts

We have a busy schedule of Christmas concerts coming up - these can all be found on the Family Planner. As a diverse community school, we explore all cultural and religious festivals and believe that it is beneficial for our pupils to be part of the celebrations. The children and staff have worked really hard in the build up to the shows so your child's attendance and engagement is necessary.

If you haven't bought tickets to this year's concerts then please do so as soon as possible. We are only able to offer 2 tickets per family which can be used together for a single show or split over the early / late show. This decision has been made due to the lack of space in the school hall. We have calculated that 140 seats would take us to maximum capacity in the hall.

Cymru at the World Cup!

Diolch o Galon (Heartfelt thanks) for sending your children into school wearing red and other costumes and memorabilia linked to Wales. It was not our year to progress to the last 16 in the tournament but we made some great memories at school which will never be forgot by the children.

Illnesses and sickness

We have had a sharp rise in illness and sickness amongst our pupils and staff. There have been confirmed cases of; Hand, Foot and Mouth, Scarlet Fever, Covid-19 and other communicable illnesses. As a school, we have increased our measures for cleaning surfaces including using a fogging machine to spray antiviral disinfectant in communal or shared spaces (e.g. classrooms, staffroom, hallways and The Plaza).

Please continue to report illnesses to the school office. As we are experiencing high number of absences, the school phonenumber may be busy at peak times. If you are directed to the answer phone, please leave a message clearly stating your child's name, class and reason for absence. Our school telephone number can be found at the top of this newsletter and other correspondence.

Christmas Jumper 'Swap Shop' / Christmas Jumper Day

On Wednesday 7th December we will hold our first Christmas Jumper 'Swap Shop' where pupils can bring in an old Christmas Jumper and swap it for a pre-loved jumper provided by another child. The following day (Thursday 8th December) is Christmas Jumper Day so the newly swapped jumper could be worn all day in

"Living Together, Learning Together, Growing Together" | "Byw Gyda'n Gilydd, Dysgu Gyda'n Gilydd, Tyfu Gyda'n Gilydd"

Acting Headteacher | Pennaeth Dros Dro: Mr. Lewis Fitzgerald
Acting Deputy Headteacher | Dirprwy Bennaeth Dros Dro: Ms. Jane Marker
Website: <https://www.roathparkprimaryschool.co.uk>
Official Twitter: @roathparkprm



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school. Do not worry if your child does not have a Christmas Jumper, we will have some spare at school or otherwise they can wear anything else they feel comfortable in.

Correspondence with teachers

Some of our teachers have been receiving emails very late at night. I just wanted to remind you that working hours for teachers are 8.30am until 5pm throughout the week. This is in accordance with our Staff Wellbeing Charter and has been shared previously. Please schedule emails for between the hours above. I have asked teachers to include a statement lifted from our Staff Wellbeing Charter on the bottom of their emails to remind everyone of working hours.

If your email is urgent, send it to Ms Marker and I. Our email addresses are JMarker@roathparkprm.co.uk and LFitzgerald@roathparkprm.co.uk and we will respond appropriately.

Family Planner 2022/23*

All important dates and events can be found on the Family Planner (link below). These are subject to change but we will resend the document if changes are made.

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/roathparkprimaryschool/UploadedDocument/5c3fdcc0-a156-4952-9311-fa354c3bf19c/family-planner-2022-23.pdf>

School meals*

We are still waiting for appliances to be delivered, emergency lighting to be installed and a roller shutter to be installed correctly in the existing kitchen. It has been agreed that this work needs to be completed before we can offer paid school meals across the school. I expect an update from the Local Authority on the necessary renovation works before Christmas.

We have a second meeting about ParentPay next week where I am hoping that we can switch all children currently having school meals (Reception and Free School Meals pupils) onto the ParentPay system. This should make it easier to order from home.

Help for families*

We fully understand that the rising cost of fuel, food and other daily essentials has and will continue to put an enormous strain on families in our learning community. We want to help anyone who is affected by the rising cost of living by offering discretionary guidance and support. So far, we have done this by; taking families to food cooperatives, providing pre-loved school uniform and essentials and liaising with local charities / organisations to obtain vouchers and other goods.

After half-term we will be publishing a strategy on how we can support you in the near future. It is important that you let us know if you require some help with accessing food or reducing costs in your home. Mrs. Ivens's email address is sivens@roathparkprm.co.uk

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Further information and guidance is also available from the Welsh Government website:
<https://gov.wales/get-help-cost-living>

Attendance and punctuality*

Where a child does not come to school and we haven't received a call, email or voicemail we will be contacting parents straight away as part of our 'first response' strategy. We urge all parents to contact us if your child is unwell or cannot attend school and we will assist you where we can.

It is also VITAL that you arrive to school on time. Our class registers will be shut at 9.05am meaning that any pupils who arrive after this time will be marked as absent. The benchmark for attendance across the school is 97% which equates to attending school on 189 days out of a possible 195 days.

School Successes

Christmas decorations: A huge thanks to Aaliyah, Alice and Amelie (all of the A's!) for helping us decorate the downstairs corridor in readiness for the festive period at school. Likewise, to Mrs. Richards and her ELSA group for making the upstairs corridor look fantastic. Our festoon lights will be switched on inside the building through to the Christmas break.

Albany Baptist Church: Pete at Albany Baptist Church was of great help to one of our families last week. They were thrown into a really difficult position and required some support from the community.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mr. L Fitzgerald
Acting Headteacher

*NB: * shows regularly communicated items*

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