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Dear RPPS Families,

The next six weeks leading into the Christmas period are a really exciting time for everybody connected to Roath Park Primary School. For the first time in two years it looks like we will be treated to Christmas Concerts! If you have never experienced these before, get ready to be amazed as the children and staff always put on a great show. All dates and times can be found on the Family Planner.

Last Friday 11th November Year 6 wowed us with a magnificent Remembrance Assembly. A HUGE thank you to all Year 6 families who were in attendance, the Royal Naval Association Cardiff, the staff who put together a great show and of course the stars of the show... our Year 6 children who spoke clearly, sang beautifully and informed us about the importance of Remembrance. Diolch yn fawr iawn i bawb! Thank you very much to everyone!

Year 5 Year Group Assembly

On **Friday 25th November at 9.15am** Year 5 will be performing their year group assembly. We are very excited for this event and really hope that as many Year 5 parents / carers and other family members as possible can attend. Please arrive at the double gates (nearest 'The Corner') just after 9am. This event and all other year group assemblies can be found on the yearly Family Planner.

Cymru at the World Cup!

You may or may not be aware that our small yet mighty country qualified for this year's football World Cup. This will be the first time Wales have played in the tournament since 1958 – 64 years ago! We want to celebrate this momentous occasion by dressing up in red or anything else linked to Wales on every day the team play. Flags and banners are also welcome! Please do not feel the need to buy new items of clothing or memorabilia – just any top that is red will be fine.

I've included details of Wales's fixtures below. Please note that the Iran fixture (highlighted in yellow) is during school time and we will be showing this in classes and the school hall. As a school, we believe that it is important we celebrate our culture, heritage and history when these events come around so we will be learning the Welsh National Anthem during Welsh Assemblies and in class. Miss Owen is also working on a pack of resources for each class. The Year 2 and Year 4 trips to the cinema which are scheduled for the same day will go ahead as planned – teachers will plan for showing the game later in the day / week via 'Catch Up'.

USA vs Wales – Monday 21st November 2022 (7pm kick off)

Wales vs Iran – Friday 25th November (10am kick off)*

Wales vs England – Tuesday 29th November (7pm kick off)

*The Year 5 assembly on Friday 25th November will finish well before the Iran fixture begins.

“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
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Children In Need (Friday 18th November)

Mrs. Richards has been busy working away on plans for Children In Need 2022. The dress up theme is; mismatched, mixed up, back to front outfits – the wackier the better! Again, please do not buy new items of clothing for this event. No donation is expected but we will be collecting small change if you are able to make a donation to the Children In Need fund.

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*

Thank you to all families who have responded to the School meals survey. I've now got a very clear idea of how many hot dinners are required for each day over two-week period. The survey was extended and will close today at 4pm. There is no requirement to complete this if you have done so already.

I had a meeting with Cardiff Council's Catering Management Team last Friday 11th November during a lunch service. This was very useful and the team could see the issues we are experiencing as a result of not having our existing kitchen (not the temporary kitchen) operational. We are waiting for appliances to be delivered, emergency lighting to be installed and a roller shutter to be installed correctly. I am emailing the buildings team weekly about each of these issues. It was agreed that this work needs to be completed before we can offer paid school meals across the school. We are working with a colleague in the catering team next Tuesday 15th November to resolve the ParentPay issue. I will keep you up-to-date with each item above as it progresses. I hope to have this resolved quickly so we can start offering meals to a wider group of pupils.

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

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

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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

Year 6: I have to start with this fantastic group of children. Not only did they deliver an outstanding Year 6 Remembrance Day assembly on Friday morning but I had a text from Mr. Howlett (Headteacher at Albany Primary School) commending the group for their behaviour and attitude during their visit to Albany's WW1 Military Hospital Exhibition.

Kindness: Jake in Year 3 very kindly presented me with a card and letter this week which absolutely made my day. I just wanted to say thanks to Jake for this – like all of our children at Roath Park, Jake has demonstrated that kindness and consideration for others goes a long way.

Active Travel / Sustrans Active Journeys: We are currently the 7th highest school in Wales for the number of children walking to school. Overall 85% of our children either walk, scoot or cycle into school every week. This is an amazing number and we thank you for promoting sustainable travel with your children. We have also been successful in our application to become a Sustrans Active Journeys School and we look forward to building up evidence to support our bronze, silver and gold awards. The school is committed to safer and sustainable travel and will support the community to continue to raise awareness whilst understanding that for some families and staff safe driving and parking is essential too.

I wish you a good week ahead.

Kind regards,

Mr. L Fitzgerald
Acting Headteacher

*NB: * shows regularly communicated items*

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