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Ref: ActingHT/October3  
Date: 26.10.22

Dear RPPS Families,

As we approach the end of the first half-term of this academic year, I just wanted to say a huge thank you for the care and support shown towards our whole school team over the past eight weeks.

The conversations we have held during Parent Open Sessions and Family Consultations, this week's RSE meeting, via numerous emails and letters, on the school grounds and at the gate have made us feel extremely proud to represent this community.

Happy Diwali to those celebrating the infamous 'festival of light'. We will mark this celebration by bringing a great deal of light to our school on Thursday afternoon / evening as the 'Glow Disco' events will be taking place in the school hall. Entry to the Glow Disco is £1 per child – there will be snacks, face painting and drinks available but no more than £2 or £3 is required per child. **All children can attend school in bright colours all day on Thursday and are to be collected as normal at the end of the school day. Year 1, 2 and 3 pupils MUST be escorted to the Hall by Parents for 3.45pm start.** Full details of this event can be found on Schoop.

#### **INSET Day – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

Please remember that our next staff training INSET day is on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022**. Please see the Family Planner (link below) for other important school dates.

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

#### **RSE Meetings**

As stated above, this week's meeting about the Relationship and Sexuality Education Code in Wales was really worthwhile. 52 families were in attendance on Monday night. Senior Leaders at school were able to provide the key messages of the mandatory SRE Code and capture the community's thoughts. I wish to thank those who attended the meeting for their engagement and thought-provoking opinion.

A second meeting is scheduled for **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm** (in the school hall) where we will be sharing resources to support the teaching of the RSE Code. Again, I urge any parents who are keen to learn about our school's approach to designing learning for RSE to attend this meeting. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide childcare arrangements during this meeting.

“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  
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### **Year 6 Year Group Assembly**

On **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 9.15am** Year 6 will be performing their year group assembly. This is the first of the year and will see our children up on stage for the first time since 2020! We are very excited for this event and really hope that as many Year 6 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.

### **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](mailto:sivens@roathparkprm.co.uk)

Further information and guidance is also available from the Welsh Government website:

<https://gov.wales/get-help-cost-living>

### **School meals\***

We are delighted that Universal Primary Free School Meals are being offered to all Reception and eFSM pupils across the school. This is working really well and the children are enjoying the experience. To help us in school, we would like families to discuss with their child what they are having for lunch each day and support their child to correctly use a knife, fork and spoon when eating at home.

We are **not** in a position to offer paid School Meals to any other year groups just yet. This is because our existing kitchen is currently undergoing a refurbishment and we are currently working with the LA to launch Parentpay as a form of online payment / meal selection.

On **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October** I will be sending a survey out to families asking whether you are interested in paying for a school dinner for your child and on which days (I will provide a menu for reference). Whilst we are not ready to increase the number of school dinners just yet, we would like to gauge demand as we plan for the next stages of our school meals roll-out.

### **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.

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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**

**Ice hockey:** Good luck to Nina in Year 6 who is taking part in a 2-day intensive training camp on Thursday and Friday. Nina is currently playing for Swindon's Top Kittens ice hockey team which includes girls up to 16 years old. Well done Nina and pob lwc!

**Big Pit visit:** Many thanks to the staff who took Year 5 to Big Pit this week. The children had a great time and learnt about the role that coal played in putting Wales on the map internationally. The children even got to descend in the pit cage and visit the places where generations of coal miners worked. What an amazing experience. Dioch teachers!

**Wow 'Active Travel' Tracker:** Miss Owen, our Active Travel ambassadors and I are going to be very busy on Thursday because we have two months' worth of badges to give out to children who are; cycling, scooting, walking or park / striding to school. Travelling to school this way makes a huge difference to the safety of our school site and neighbouring roads as there are fewer vehicles. It is also sustainable for our environment.

Have a safe, restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Kind regards,

Mr. L Fitzgerald  
Acting Headteacher

*NB: \* shows regularly communicated items*

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