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Ref: HT/Oct3 – Building Update

Date: 16.10.2024

Dear RPPS Families,

We've arrived at the end of this half-term. Thank you for your continued support with regards to your child's learning and various school events.

It has been a very busy half-term with lots of successes. Our staffing team continues to work incredibly hard to ensure children are at the heart of everything we do. In the event of an emergency next week (during half-term), please direct any emails to me – LFitzgerald@roathparkprm.co.uk

Please remember that Monday 4th November 2024 is an INSET day. School will be closed to all pupils on this day and they will return to school at the normal time of 8.55am on Tuesday 5th November.

This version of the newsletter focuses primarily on the school premises. There's lots of discussion in the community about the school building and premises so we've provided some clarity and an update for you.

Building Update

On Wednesday 23rd November a group of Governors, Mr. Burnett, Ms. Marker and I met with Melanie Godfrey (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning) and Richard Portas (Programme Director – Schools Organisation Programme) at County Hall. This meeting was rescheduled from 11th October following a late cancellation by Council representatives. Welsh Government have confirmed that accountability for the repairs required to restore the school building and premises lie with Cardiff Council.

The purpose of this meeting was to share concerns regarding the deterioration of the school premises, including health and safety issues, and discuss a clear programme of works to be completed including timescales.

In December, the scaffolding at the front of school will have been up for three years. We have shared that this is an unacceptable duration of time without any works having been undertaken to maintain or repair the school building. It also upsets us that some of our younger children and newer families have never seen the front of the school building without the scaffolding.

The next step is for Richard Portas, surveyors and the health and safety at Cardiff Council to visit us and work on a priority plan. This will be undertaken on Monday 4th November, during INSET day. I will share outcomes of future meetings with families in due course.

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

Headteacher | Pennaeth: Mr. Lewis Fitzgerald
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I would like to thank Dr. Richard Harris, Dyfi Allen, Gareth Brown, Rachel Cable, Dennis De Widt and Jane Foulner for giving up their time and concentrating so many of their efforts on this. As a team, we have explored every possible option available to us in order to try and secure a plan for works to be completed. We will continue to do so until this matter is resolved.



School Street / Active Travel Entrance

A consultation involving residents of Ty'n-Y-Coed Place and Diana Street was shared this week. This is in relation to a 'School Street' and Active Travel entrance at the back of the school premises. We have campaigned for this in order to make coming into and leaving the school site safer for everyone.

Earlier today we met with our Active Travel Officers at Cardiff Council and outlined reasons for postponing a consultation into the implementation of a School Street in order for all involved to prioritise efforts to repair the school building. We want to stress that the support we've received from the Council's Active Travel team has been outstanding and there was complete understanding of the school's desire to postpone the consultation.

Flu vaccinations

Flu vaccinations for pupils from Reception to Year 6 are available at school on Thursday 7th November. Please remember to book your child's flu vaccination via this following link;
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=uChWuyjgkCoVkM8ntyProwc0tRo7SIFodPD07y1M5RUQ1BFV0hZQkcvV0c4UzNWQjMzS01SVFI1Ri4u>

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GLOW Discos

We raised a brilliant £290 from the Glow Discos this week. This will help as we plan events and experiences throughout the school year.

Christmas Concerts

Tickets are priced at £1 each and due to limited space in our school hall, they are restricted to 2 tickets per child, per performance. There is a maximum of 140 tickets available for each concert. Entry will be by ticket only.

Mrs. Lark will be selling the tickets after half term. You will be sent full details in due course.

Governing Body Annual Report to Families

Dr. Richard Harris (Chair of Governing Body), Dyfi Allen (Vice-Chair of Governing Body) and the Senior Leadership Team at school wrote and recently published our Governing Body Annual Report to Families. This reflects on the 2023-24 academic year, reflecting on the school's performance throughout the year.

You can find it here: [2023/24 Governing Body Annual Report to Families](#)

Attendance and punctuality*

School starts at 8.55am. 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 your child arrives 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.

Holiday leave during term time*

I have received a number of notifications of holiday leave. Thank you for these – it is useful to know your intention to travel during term-time just in case we are asked by the Local Authority. We require your dates of travel, how many school days not attending, location and reason for travel.

Please remember that Cardiff Council policy states that you cannot be absent from school for more than 20 school days. Doing so would result in the Local Authority asking us to remove your child from the school register and admitting a child who is on our waiting list.

School successes

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There have been no new school successes since the last newsletter.

If your child has recently picked up an award, certificate or achievement outside of school please contact me with details LFitzgerald@roathparkprm.co.uk

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mr. L Fitzgerald
Headteacher

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