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Dear RPPS Families,

Ahead of the Easter holiday break I just wanted to write to you with some updates. We've been very busy working through our budget for 2025-26 and making changes to our staffing team.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this term – it is greatly appreciated by all of us at Roath Park. Please direct any urgent correspondence to myself only during the Easter holidays, this enables our team to rest and enjoy their break with family and friends. My email address is LFitzgerald@roathparkprm.co.uk

Staffing changes / updates

Teaching Assistants: Mrs. Revell is currently on sabbatical leave with her family in Namibia and Mrs. Jones recently retired from her Teaching Assistant position. We therefore needed to add two Teaching Assistants to our team who will ensure that we continue to supporting learning and pupils' needs across the school.

We would like to welcome Mrs. Anneli Coleman and Miss Vicky Kay to our team. Both did very well at interview – they will join us in the Summer Term and will continue their role into next school year.

Cleaners: Since being appointed as successor to Mrs. Lark in the school office, Miss Wellbeloved has resigned from her Cleaner position at school. We have also had a relief cleaner working in the team.

I am pleased to share that Mrs. Kelly Harvey has been successfully appointed as Cleaner on a Permanent basis. Kelly is also our school cook and a favourite with children across the school.

Two new cleaners will join the team on a Temporary basis - these are Mrs. Allyson Bonni and Miss Amara Owuala. All candidates performed really well at interview and will begin their new roles on Monday 28th April.

Mrs. Wright: Mrs. Wright has been away from work recently in order to rest and rehabilitate following surgery on her knee. We are pleased to share that Mrs. Wright returns to work after the Easter holiday break.

Welsh Sabbatical: Mrs. Tiani-Tanzi will begin a Welsh Sabbatical after the Easter holidays so will not be in school to teach Year 4 on Thursdays and Fridays and cover other classes from Monday through to Wednesday.

Dymunwn bob lwc i Mrs. Tiani-Tanzi gyda'r cwrs - we wish Mrs. Tiani-Tanzi good luck on the course.

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Headteacher | Pennaeth: Mr. Lewis Fitzgerald
Deputy Headteacher | Dirprwy Bennaeth: Ms. Jane Marker
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Miss Jenkins: Miss Jenkins has taught in Class 2W whilst Mrs. Wright has been recovering from knee surgery. Miss Jenkins will now move to Year 4 to cover Mrs. Tiani-Tanzi whilst she is on her Welsh sabbatical course.

RPPS Sport Stars

Football: Our Year 5 and Year 6 football teams have both recently played Rhydypenau Primary. Our Year 6 football team also competed against Adamsdown, Albany and Baden Powell Primary in a tournament.

Netball: Well done to the Year 6 Netball teams who have competed against Coed Glas and Howardian over the last two weeks. The Coed Glas game was our first competitive match of the season and we came away with 5-2 and 19-0 wins! Last night we played against Howardian and won 21-4! Really impressive – da iawn Miss Owen, Miss Murphy and the Netball squad.

Cricket: We will play in two tournaments during the Summer Term. Mr. Loizos and I will be running some after school clubs and look forward to sharing details very soon.

Summer after-school clubs

We will be offering the following after-school clubs during the Summer Term;

Taekwondo (external), Maths Span (external), Cricket, Football, Netball, Art, Cwtch and Choir

At present, most of the clubs are aimed at the older children. There is a greater demand here. Please keep an eye on Schoop for details on how to sign your child up to these clubs.

Pupil numbers

Most schools have seen a steady decline in pupil numbers since the Covid pandemic. At the time of writing this letter, we currently have spaces for children to be added to the following year groups;

Reception and Year 1

We are very pleased that our pupil numbers are projected to rise again ahead of September 2025 with our reception cohort estimated to be at capacity (60 children).

Sustrans 'Big Walk and Wheel' event

This event took place between 24th March and 4th April. From Nursery through to Year 6, 91.49% of our journeys during to and from school were either by foot or on wheels (bikes and scooters).

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We finished 1st position for all large primary schools in Cardiff and 1st for all large primary schools in Wales. We finished 19th of all large primary schools in the UK. This is an amazing achievement and we should be proud of our commitment to being active and environmentally-friendly.

School building

We are waiting to hear from Cardiff Council about whether they have been allocated further funding from Welsh Government to carry out works to older, historic school buildings like ours. I will keep you up-to-date with any progress.

Online payments

I am pleased to share that online payments will begin in the Summer Term. We will move to online payments for snack, uniform, trips and experiences.

We will be trialling single transaction payments first e.g. school trips. More information will be shared soon.

School meals

School meals should be ordered by parents through **Parentpay** at least **a week in advance**.

If you do not order and your child wants a school meal, we will call you and ask you to provide a packed lunch for your child. Our cooks cannot plan for how many meals they need to cook if they do not know how many children are having each meal option.

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.

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.

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School successes

Scouts: Archie (Year 3) has earned his Bronze Chief Scout Award in Beavers. This requires completion of all the core badges as well as a wide variety of activity and staged badges during his time as a Beaver.

Dance: Lily (Year 5) took part in a WDO dance competition in Bristol on Sunday 6th April. Her team came second in their category (hip hop).

A huge well done to each of you for your fantastic achievements – we are extremely proud of your efforts in school and outside of school. If I have missed anyone who has recently picked up an award, certificate or achievement outside of school please contact me with details LFitzgerald@roathparkprm.co.uk

Happy Easter to those celebrating within our learning community.

Many thanks for your continued support,
Mr. L Fitzgerald

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