

**Richmond Park Community Primary School**  
Priory Street  
Carmarthen  
Carmarthenshire  
SA31 1NB



**Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Parc Waundew**  
Heol y Prior  
Caerfyrddin  
Sir Gâr  
SA31 1NB



= Richmond Park  
School, Carmarthen

Headteacher / Pennaeth: Miss Helen Davies  
Tel: (01267) 235001 / 238298  
E-mail: [admin.richmond@ysgolccc.org.uk](mailto:admin.richmond@ysgolccc.org.uk)  
[www.richmondpark.amdro.org.uk](http://www.richmondpark.amdro.org.uk)



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28<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Snow forecast:**

Should the school need to close due to snow, we will inform all parents via text at the earliest possible opportunity. If you have recently changed your telephone number, please inform the school office as soon as possible in order to ensure that we have your most up to date contact details. If we do get snow and the school is able to remain open, we will clear the shortest and most direct route possible in to school. This will be via the main entrance to the school, as well as the rear gate to the fire exit door of Year 6 (on the KS2 yard). Please take care at all times.

### **P.E.A.S Calendar:**

I am delighted to announce that we are re-launching our 'P.E.A.S' programme to inform and support parents with their children's learning and development through a variety of workshops. P.E.A.S (Parents Engaged Actively in School) is a programme we developed several years ago. The programme aims to help parents find out more about how we teach your children and to provide you with practical tips to reinforce this at home. The workshops are completely free and will be delivered by school staff and various professionals. Some workshops will be tailored to providing you with information, whereas some will be possible to withdraw your children from class to work on a project together. All sessions are designed to be fun, informal and supportive. The full calendar of events has been sent via text to parents and included with this letter.

We will provide parents with more details of each event via a text or link to the website prior to each event. Due to the space in the rooms and resources required, most workshops will be capped at 20 participants each. To book your place on an event, we will send out a digital signing-in sheet via text, or you can call the school office to confirm your attendance. In addition to being provided with information to support your children's learning, we will also provide parents with a raffle ticket for each event you attend. These will be drawn during the final assembly of the year for various prizes, including a £50 Tesco voucher.

### **Parent Survey Results:**

Just before Christmas, I asked you to confidentially answer a series of questions to find out your views about the school. Your collective responses were very pleasing. Some of the highlights included:

- 96% agreed or strongly agreed that your child likes this school
- 94% agreed or strongly agreed that your child is making good progress at school
- 93% agreed or strongly agreed that you believe your child is safe at school
- 93% agreed or strongly agreed that the quality of teaching is good



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I have text a link to the full survey responses to all parents in order for you to evaluate all responses, but you can also see the responses by visiting <http://richmondpark.amdro.org.uk/media/104489/Parent-Survey-January-2019.pdf>

I have also carefully read the comments that were made by some parents in the responses and will share these with the school staff. Most comments were very positive and reinforce the excellent work I know all of our staff do on a daily basis. Some of these comments were:

*'I haven't been dealing with this school for very long but in that short time, they have been very approachable, understanding and extremely supportive to both my child and myself.'*

*'I think all teachers are amazing dealing with my child.'*

*'My children have had negative experiences in both their previous schools but are totally different since coming to Richmond Park. They love it and couldn't be happier, wish I'd moved them years ago.'*

*'Teachers and staff are doing an amazing job. Thank you to you all.'*

*'Any questions answered with a 'do not know' is only because I've never had any issues that have come up. My daughter loves going to school and I think this is a credit to the school and teachers.'*

*'I really love this school. I believe that my child is getting a proper education and experience which will help him be a good human being.'*

I would also like to thank parents for bringing some issues to our attention. I have summarised the general feedback below, as well as included what we're doing and intend on doing to improve these areas. I would like to note that most concerns raised were areas which were either on our school development plan or may be areas which we already address but cannot share with parents due to confidentiality.

*'Asked for Dojo login twice but not had a response. Asked for payments for lunch via a system instead of cash, but not considered yet. Asked for info re violin lessons, still waiting. But love the school and wouldn't be anywhere else!'*

We apologise for any delays in dealing with requests. Parents should request ClassDojo (or other) logging-in details from class teachers in the first instance. If this request isn't met in a reasonable amount of time, please request it from myself or the office via the email address above. We are currently evaluating our options for music provision for the next academic year. I'm sure parents understand that we cannot accommodate all requests for instruments as the specialist peripatetic teachers are only with us for a short amount of time each week and it's not possible to provide 1:1 tuition for each instrument. Where specific requests for instruments cannot be met, we will endeavour to find contacts for private tuition outside of school if parents would like to contact them on a private basis. With regards to a payment system for lunch, this is something we will be implementing in the school in the near future, resulting in us going cashless with



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regards to school meals. Carmarthenshire County Council have purchased an online payment system which is being rolled out to all schools over a 2 year period for school meals. We are awaiting a date from county when the system will be set-up with us. Full training will be provided to parents when we adopt this system.

General comments with regards to bullying and negative behaviour not being dealt with (I've not quoted here so as to not potentially identify any parents or children):

I can assure all parents that we take bullying very seriously and we've been working closely with all children for a number of years on understanding what the definition of bullying is. According to the Government website, there is no legal definition of bullying, but it's usually defined as behaviour that is repeated, intended to hurt someone physically or emotionally and is often aimed at certain groups (e.g. race, religion, etc).

We promote positive behaviour on a daily basis and record this via ClassDojo (including negative behaviours), which all parents can access and see for their own children. Parents can view our positive behaviour and anti-bullying policy on the school website, which also includes a list of consequences which children receive if they present negative behaviour, including bullying. Parents will not always see the full extent of the consequences which other children receive due to confidentiality, however I can assure you that every instance is dealt with seriously and in line with our policy. We have booked the NSPCC and PC Craig Williams (our Schoolbeat officer who promotes anti-bullying) to come in to school in the coming weeks to further reinforce this. In addition to this, we take part in anti-bullying week annually and reinforce this throughout the year, take part in 'Show Racism the Red' card events, teach children about bullying as a part of our PSE curriculum, teach children about cyber bullying through our e-safety lessons, etc. If you believe your child is being bullied, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance, but please feel free to bring it to my attention if the problem isn't resolved and I will investigate this further. In some cases, it may be that children in general have disagreements and fall out with each other (as most children do) – this isn't necessarily classed as bullying. However, rest assured, when actual bullying does take place, it will never be tolerated and we will deal with all instances in line with our anti-bullying policy.

*'I feel the school doesn't give each child the opportunity to take part in different things across the year, e.g. an acting role in the Christmas concert'*

We try to provide opportunities for all pupils across the whole curriculum, including the extra-curricular activities we provide. This year, the majority of the Christmas concert didn't have an acting role, however children were able to audition to be narrators and these were voted by their peers. Likewise, each of our school council members, digital leaders, Criw Cymraeg, etc have been voted in on an annual basis by the children in each class after a short presentation by the children who want to be representatives. We encourage all children to put themselves forward for roles, to take part in sporting activities (regardless of their sporting abilities), Urdd events, general class events, etc. It's difficult to address this opinion without knowing which child is being referred to, therefore please feel free to let me know and I will investigate this further. It's important that all children receive opportunities to take part in as many aspects of school life as they can and we will facilitate this where possible.



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*'I do think the school needs more sports and after school clubs'*

In recent years we've had to reduce our after school club provision, however we are still able to provide a free club to pupils from Years 1-6 for most weeks of the year (as well as our daily Clwb Cwl and Youth Club) - something which many schools don't do. As we alter these clubs each term, it is not always possible to provide a continuous sports club as we want our children to experience a wide range of activities in our after school clubs. However, I have recently requested support from an organisation called 'Gêm On', who will be providing a free trial football club for Years 1-6 in February. This club may continue to run on a long-term paid basis (as it's an external provider) after half term if there is enough demand from parents. Further information will be sent out to parents this week.

Children will continue to receive 2 hours of physical education during school each week, which includes all sports on the curriculum, including football, rugby, gymnastics, dance, netball, tennis, hockey, etc. We have recently invested in a range of new sporting equipment, with thanks to funds provided by the PTA. We take part in all sporting competitions and festivals when possible, both during and after school, e.g. Carmarthenshire/Dyfed cross country, Carmarthen football festival, Urdd festivals and competitions, etc. Please feel free to let us know if you're aware of any events which we haven't taken part in as it may be the case that we've not received information about those events. We value the importance of sport and believe this is an essential component to support children's general health and wellbeing.

*'Other than parents evening, we have no knowledge of how our child is doing. We are told that if our child comes home just saying he played that this is okay and quite often they have learnt through play, but we have no idea what they have been learning, which makes it difficult to support our child in his learning and development. I also feel that we don't get given enough advance notice about things going on in school.'*

Learning through play is a key part of our Foundation Phase curriculum, but I will share the comments with staff to ensure that the feedback they provide is more focused on what skills the children have been developing and how parents can support this at home. Furthermore, the new PEAS calendar provides parents with the opportunity to come in to school more regularly to find out more about our curriculum, how we teach the children and tools to support your children. We apologise for the limited notice to certain events, but sometimes these are beyond our control. The calendar function on our school website is no longer supported by county, but we hope to have a new system in place in the coming weeks. In addition, I have included all key dates remaining for this academic year on the PEAS calendar to allow parents to book time off work and plan for what's coming up (e.g. World Book Day, Sports Day, PTA events, etc).

I hope this feedback has been useful to you and has addressed some of your queries. Thank you once again for your continued support and please feel free to contact us if you'd like any further information!

Kind regards,

Mr D Cooper  
(Acting Headteacher)

