

# RICHMOND PARK PRIMARY YSGOL PARC WAUNDEW



DECEMBER

2019/20

You're never too old,  
too wacky, too wild,  
to pick up a book  
and  
read to a child.



-DR. SEUSS

The more time spent with a parent reading aloud increases a child's level of attachment, enhances a sense of security and imparts the knowledge that they are worthwhile people with whom to spend time.

## Fundraising...

Well done everyone – we have raised a phenomenal amount of money for various charities this year. Teaching the children about charity is important to us and we try to involve all children in different aspects of fundraising as part of their Personal Social Development lessons. A special thanks to the PTFA too for organising a number of events to lead on raising money and to Miss Fish and Mrs Peters in taking Year 1 and 2 pupils busking.

Alzheimers Society £155.22

Children in Need £164

Save The Children £182

We also supported the Poppy Appeal and Harvest Food Bank – 6 large boxes delivered to Johnstown to the Foodbank. Thank you to all families that supported the school in supporting the charities.

## Merry Christmas everyone

the Autumn Term for 2019-20 is over. It has been a long term but thoroughly enjoyable and successful in many ways.

Our Support Visit from our Local Authority Challenge Advisor has confirmed our view of the school that it is good. Richmond Park provides a broad and balanced curriculum to your children which is pertinent to our community. We strive for success in all areas of the curriculum and we are working in particular on numeracy across the curriculum and a range of writing purposes. We also aim to improve our effectiveness of working with parents and governors, hence developing the new Parent Council and changing the way the Governing Body works. Governors now meet half termly rather than 3 times year which improves the pace of working and keeping our Governors abreast of developments.

Whilst reading isn't on the School Development Plan, it is never far from our daily plans. Reading underpins all learning and is fundamental in being successful in life. Studies show that reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children's educational performance.

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. In fact, reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.

Parents can make a huge difference! Parents are the most important educators in a child's life – even more important than their teachers – and it's never too early to start reading together. Even before they're born, babies learn to recognise their parents' voices. Reading to your baby from birth, even for just a few minutes a day, gives them the comfort of hearing your voice and increases their exposure to language.

Learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out what's printed on the page. Through hearing stories, children are exposed to a wide range of words. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. It's important for them to understand how stories work too. Even if your child doesn't understand every word, they'll hear new sounds, words and phrases which they can then try out, copying what they have heard.

As children start to learn to read at school, you can play an important role in helping to keep them interested in books. Find out what interests them, help them to find books that will be engaging and fun, and spend time reading the books they bring home from school together. Make sure that your child is familiar with language and books so they can see how enjoyable reading is.

If there is one gift you get your child this Christmas – make it a book you enjoy together. Support leaflet enclosed for you.

*That leaves me to once again wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We will see you all again on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020.*

*Mrs Luff - Headteacher*

Our new cashless system PARENT PAY is well underway and has been used for school lunches, concerts and PTA events. After Christmas we will start using the system for booking Youth Club and Clwb Cwi after school clubs.

We will work with parents in making it as easy as possible to access and use but if you have not already signed up then please do so as we do not take cash any longer in the school office.

# WELCOME TO PARENTPAY

Trusted Cashless School Payments

## Parent Council

The first meeting has taken place and minutes shared with all (Copy in this envelope). It is a long read but worthwhile.

The Parent Council will meet half termly with Senior Leaders to celebrate what is going well and what could be better. Issues and concerns will also be raised in order to allow us the opportunity to address them. Our belief is that by working closely with parents and carers we will make Richmond Park an even better place for your children. Thank you to those parents that have agreed to sit on the council as representatives.

**SCHOLASTIC**  
SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUBS

## READING EVERY DAY...

...**CREATES** lifelong readers.

...**TEACHES** children to find adventure, ideas, and answers through books.

...**STRENGTHENS** relationships and creates memories as a family activity.

...**OPENS DOORS** through which children can learn about themselves.

...**BUILDS** a diverse vocabulary and strengthens fluency in reading.

...**ALLOWS** a child's imagination and creativity to blossom.

...**GIVES** children the tools needed to become successful students.

...**TAKES** the "scary" out of reading in the classroom.

...**HELPS** children make connections to new places, people, and concepts.

...**AWAKENS** children to the world around them.

**READ**  
Every Day  
Lead a Better  
**LIFE**

# Breakfast Club

Many of our children attend Breakfast Club in the mornings because parents are working and they use Breakfast Club as childcare. Others use it as a second breakfast as they are early risers and are eager to get to school. Others use it as a social venue to meet up with friends to have a chat and play before school. Whatever the reason Breakfast Club is a valuable resource that should be enjoyable for all.

Yvonne our lovely school cook tries her best to provide foods that all children like and the support staff try their best to provide activities to engage and entertain. Many children tell me they enjoy the early start before lessons and enjoy the meal choices on offer to them. One or two will complain about other children not being friendly and we help them to overcome some social barriers and peer friendship issues.

Breakfast Club staff say that on the whole the children behave well but there are one or two who find behaving in a less structured environment very difficult. We try to support Breakfast Club with these pupils. In the New Year I intend to undertake a full audit of Breakfast Club and involve parents, children, Breakfast Club and the Parent Council in an honest review of what is working well and what requires improvement. We can then give a report to the Catering Department at the Local Authority who are responsible for Breakfast Club with a view to further improvements.



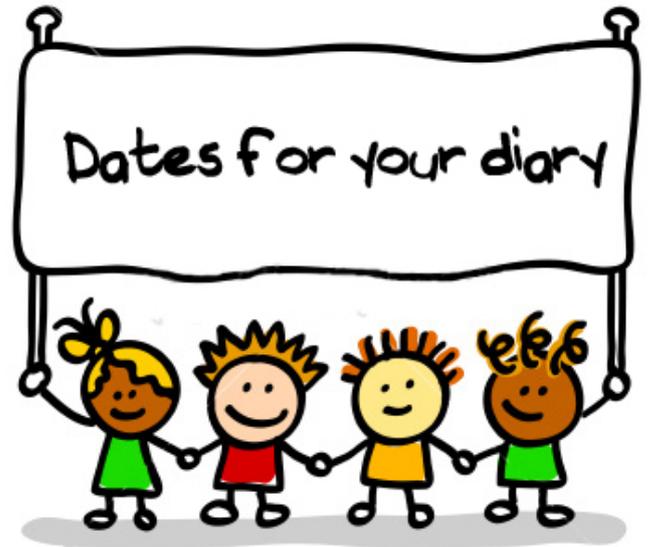
## DANGER

Pupils are at risk of injury by climbing the wall between the field and the KS2 yard at the end of the school day. Children are under the supervision of their parents at this time of the day and we urge parents to keep a closer eye on them. Children should not be climbing this wall as there is a steep drop on the field side and there are raised bars on the fence also.

The climbing frame on the field is also not to be used by pupils after school as it is not supervised by staff. Thank you

We always try to let parents / carers know of dates as soon as possible. We share with you what we have in our diary at the moment but please be aware that dates change at times and often due to circumstances beyond our control.

There are more dates in the PEAS calendar.



Jan 6<sup>th</sup> INSET DAY

Jan 7<sup>th</sup> Children start back for Term 3

Jan 15<sup>th</sup> Social Worker for Attendance meeting with Headteacher

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> Welsh Monitoring by Mari Owen

Jan 24<sup>th</sup> Diwrnod Santes Dwynwen celebrations

Feb 7<sup>th</sup> Netball Competition – Leisure Centre

Feb 11<sup>th</sup> Safer Internet Day

Feb 14<sup>th</sup> End of Term 3 & Mr Macey off to Lesotho

Feb 24<sup>th</sup> Start of Term 4

Feb 28<sup>th</sup> St. David's Day Celebrations

Mar 5<sup>th</sup> Full Governing Body Meeting 4pm

Mar 18<sup>th</sup> Carmarthen Climate Conference for Eco Council

Apr 1<sup>st</sup> Parents' Evenings 3.30 to 6.30

Apr 2<sup>nd</sup> Parents' Evenings 3.30 to 6.30

Apr 3<sup>rd</sup> End of Term 4

Apr 20<sup>th</sup> Start of Term 5

Apr 21<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May National Numeracy Reasoning Test

May 8<sup>th</sup> May Day

May 21<sup>st</sup> Sport's Day

May 22<sup>nd</sup> End of Term 5

Jun 1<sup>st</sup> Start of Term 6

Jun 15<sup>th</sup> Pendine Week (TBC)

Jul 16<sup>th</sup> Year 6 Leaver's Concert for Parents 1.30pm to 2.30pm

Jul 20<sup>th</sup> INSET DAY

## CLOTHING ...

Can I remind parents in Foundation Phase that appropriate outdoor clothing is needed as an essential part of the curriculum is outdoor learning. Your children have outdoor lessons whatever the weather so waterproof trousers and coat are necessary including wellington boots. If they are not dressed for muddy play they will return home in a muddy state. We have a few emergency items of clothing but not sufficient to dress a whole class. Therefore we ask parents to support us in this matter. Thank you ~ Mrs Luff

