

Risdene Academy Weekly Newsletter

4th December 2017

Christmas Mufti Day
Wednesday 6th December

PRIDE

Thank you to those of you that took the time to fill in our Parental Questionnaire on parents evening. We received 169 replies, which is fantastic. These questionnaires are important for us to review the impact of the work that we are doing in school. I am delighted that 100% of our pupils feel safe at Risdene and that 100% of pupils believe their child is well looked after. We are also particularly pleased with the response to when concerns are raised that we respond well.

Therefore we urge parents to talk to us if they have concerns over bullying as we will follow up on concerns raised in line with our anti-bullying policy and behaviour policy.

We are addressing the inconsistencies in homework with the staff and are working to develop opportunities for those who do not have access to the internet for their maths homework in particular.

The school has also introduced a new data system and with this there will be a new reporting system to parents, which should allow greater opportunity for you to receive valuable information about your child's progress. However, if at any point you are concerned or would like an update or more information, please feel free to contact your child's class teacher.

	Strongly Agree / Agree or N/A
My child is happy to come to school at Risdene	97.63%
My child feels safe at Risdene	100.00%
The changes that have occurred this year means I can see that my child is making good progress	95.27%
My child is well looked after	100%
The curriculum my child is offered is motivating them	96.45%
My child is receiving maths, reading and spelling homework and a termly homework project.	94.67%
The changes that have occurred means that Risdene makes sure its pupils are well behaved	95.27%
If my child has experienced bullying and the school are aware, it has been dealt with effectively.	95.86%
Risdene is well led and well managed and the changes are having a positive impact.	98.82%
Risdene responds well to any concerns I raise, if I have had to raise any.	99.41%
I receive valuable information from Risdene about my child's progress	94.77%
I find the newsletter beneficial	97.04%
Would you recommend Risdene to another parent	Yes 98.22%

Attendance

Our current whole School Attendance is 95.78%. Our target is to be at 96.5% or higher at the end of year. In a Monday assembly, we celebrate the class with the highest attendance. This week's results were:

1st Place— Owls with 99.29%

2nd Place—Dragonflies with 98.67%

3rd Place— Hedgehogs with 97.89%

As the winter weather hits we know children get ill. We have spoken to all of the children about the importance of washing their hands, using a tissue and putting it in a bin, and covering their mouths when they cough to help reduce the spread of germs. Our site team have also increased their cleaning regime and they now come in during the day to clean down door handles and common surfaces to also help prevent spreading germs. This is in addition to their normal routine.

As the cold weather has arrived, it is vitally important that you ensure your child wears a coat to school and it is named. We still have a number of pupils coming to school without one. Please can you ensure that your child has a coat in school everyday.

Forest Points

In a Monday assembly we also celebrate our hard work in lessons and the forest points we have been earning for our teams. Forest points are given out for a range of reasons including use of manners, positive behaviour choices and learning behaviour choices. This week we announced the winning house for the Autumn Term. The winning house will have a bubble performance on Thursday morning to celebrate their hard work and success. I am delighted to tell you that the winning house was Salcey.

We also invited in the parents of our termly individual class champions to a special assembly this morning. It was lovely to see you joining in your children's success with us.

Foundation Stage

This week in literacy the children have become storytellers, learning the story of Sleeping Beauty. They have enjoyed retelling the story to each other using actions, puppets and props. In mathematics the children have been introduced to addition. They have been finding the total amount of objects in two groups. They have counted all sorts of objects...pens, counters, people and biscuits.

Year1/2

This week Ants, Bees and Dragonflies have been learning all about resilience and what it means to show resilience. They have written poems which will be entered into a competition and we will let you know how they get on. In PE the children have been learning lots of new steps to create a firework dance based around our Learning Journey of Celebrations.

Year 3/4

We have had a super busy week in year 3/4 learning lots of new things. We have learnt about actors and how they prepare for their roles by reading play scripts, which led us to writing our own play scripts for a chapter in George's Marvellous Medicine. We then read our play scripts at the end of the week and performed them to the class, with stage directions. Our clay potion bottles have now been painted and they look absolutely fabulous with their designs and colour choices. Finally, we have been singing along to musical songs to help us learn our multiplications, they're so catchy that the teachers are joining in too!

Year 5/6

Year 5 and 6 have had another busy week working on fractions during maths, writing letters during English and Investigating circuits during Science. PSHE has been a reflection on ambition for ourselves as well as children from other cultures and countries, in addition to singing during our phase assemblies. We also had two wonderful opportunities to work with two authors.

Author Visits

In the run up to Christmas, the children of Risdene Academy have certainly been entertained and shared in a love of reading when not one but two authors visited us. Matt Oldfield joined Years 5 and 6 for some writing workshops and KS1 and Lower KS2 were joined by Gillian Overitt for the day.

Lots of the children found the visitors interesting and were keen to express how much they enjoyed meeting the authors. Some of the comments can be seen below:

Matt Oldfield inspired me to start writing more because I used to write a lot and then gave up but now I'm going to write again. (Sophia)

It has inspired me to be an author because it seems like a good job because you can write about anything (Ruby)

Gillian made books that she talked about sound interesting and inspired me to read more (Lexie)

I like how she made the dragons have human feelings (Oli)

Sports Crew

Congratulations to all of the children selected to be part of our Sports Crew and to support in raising the profile of sport in school. I know that they are already busy planning with Mr Butler.

One of their first tasks has been to ask me to remind you that your child needs their PE kit in school everyday. The PE Kit must include a plain white t-shirt, black shorts, dark tracksuit bottoms, trainers or plimsolls and a dark hoodie or jumper for outdoor PE. PE is a statutory part of the National Curriculum and all children need to participate. The Crew want to encourage the social benefits of sport and the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and they need your support with this.

Flu Vaccinations - Foundation - Year 4 only

Please could we have your consent forms handed in as soon as possible,. If you do not give consent or your child has already received the vaccination then please indicate this on the form and return back to school. For more information on the Flu Vaccination please visit: www.nhs.uk/child-flu or call the 0-19 Team on **0300 111 1022**.

Christmas Dinner Day

Christmas Lunch for the children this year will be on **Wednesday 13th December**. Please log into your Parent Pay account to order your child's Christmas Lunch by **Midnight on Tuesday 5th December**. If you do not have an activation code for Parent Pay then please ask at the office.

Christmas Dates

Tuesday 5th December - KS1 Choir performing at 'Sing for Serve' Park Road Baptist Church
Wednesday 6th December - Panto 'Sleeping Beauty' and Christmas Muffin Day
Thursday 7th December - Christmas Fayre
Monday 11th December - KS2 Choir performing at Asda Rushden . Please return consent forms asap
Monday 11th December - Flu Vaccinations for Foundation - Year 4. Please send your consent form back asap
Wednesday 13th December - Christmas Dinner - Please order by Midnight on Tuesday 5th December
Thursday 14th December - KS1 Christmas Performance - Letter sent to parents today
Friday 15th December - Foundation Christmas Sing a long (details to follow)
Monday 18th December - Christmas Carol Service in school
Monday 18th December (evening) - Christmas Carol sing a long in school with the both Choirs
Wednesday 20th December - Last day of term
Thursday 4th January 2018 - We look forward to welcoming you back to school for Term 3.



Christmas Fayre 2017

Risdene Academy would like to invite you to our Christmas Fayre which is being held on Thursday 7th December at 3.10 p.m.

The choir will open the Fayre with Christmas songs

At the Christmas Fayre we will have Santa and you will be able to take your own photos, entrance will be £2.50 per child.

There will be a Chocolate Tombola, a Christmas Café, serving drinks and cakes, Christmas Crafts, Raffle prizes (1st Prize – Amazon Fire 7" Tablet), to name but a few. A full program will follow.

On Wednesday 6th December 2017 the Academy will be having a Christmas Panto Day where the children can come to school in non-uniform including Christmas jumpers in exchange for a donation of chocolate for our Chocolate Tombola at the Christmas Fayre.

Each class are creating their own Hamper for the raffle and we would appreciate any donations. The classes have each got their own colour scheme and donations should be in that colour:

Foundation-Gold	Ants -Yellow	Badgers -Blue
Bees-Silver	Owls -Green	Red Kites -Orange
Dragonflies-Red	Wolves -Purple	Hawks - White
	Eagles-Pink and Black	

Donations of cakes and mince pies can be handed into the office on the morning of the Fayre, 7th December.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Fayre.

Christmas Raffle Tickets

Your child will have brought home raffle tickets on Friday. They are priced at £1.00 each or £5.00 per book. Please return your ticket stubs and money to school by Wednesday 6th December. Remember to keep hold of your tickets and just return the stubs. Any unwanted tickets can also be returned to school. If we do have any tickets left, they will be on sale at the Christmas fayre.