



Summer Term 2019

Hello, to all our Parents and Carers!
Hopefully, we will have a bit more sunshine to look forward to this term, but regardless of the weather, we have planned lots of exciting activities and experiences for the children over the coming weeks! This newsletter will be the last one for the current academic year- further updates will be sent by group email, or by letters and/or notices.

Independence

To prepare R.S children for school, please encourage them to enter the setting independently, using the appropriate 'Base Room'. If you are running a bit late, please 'handover' your child to a staff member at the door. Please support children's independence skills at home by encouraging them: to dress/undress themselves, manage their own personal hygiene and to use a knife and fork; especially important if they will be having a cooked lunch at school!

Thank you!

A BIG thank you to all parents/carers who have been committee members this year, their tremendous effort with organising various fundraising events; along with your support of course, has enabled us to buy new toys, resources and equipment for Rainbow Teddies, including a lovely wooden arch; enhancing our 'book' area in Terrace Room.



We will need some parents to join our committee in the next academic year, as some of our existing members will be 'stepping down'. **We will need a new Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer**-these are 'key officer' roles and we **cannot have a committee without these positions being filled!** The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at Rainbow Teddies in October (date:TBC) but please do let any member of staff or committee know if you are interested in joining the committee in any capacity.

Tesco Bags of Help Grant Award

We have recently been notified that we have successfully secured second place! This means that we can purchase the Mud Kitchen for our outdoor play area and with monies recently raised at Rainbow Teddies, we can still purchase the tablets, tapestry app and drawer units. Thank you to you and your family and friends, who helped to make this possible, by placing the blue tokens in our collection box at Tesco in Thornbury!

Staff Update

We welcome Nichola Milton, who joined us in term 5 as a Qualified Assistant, she has settled into our team really well and has been busy getting to know her key children and their parents and carers. We are happy to see the return of Michelle Morris, who has been helping us on a Wednesday morning and she will continue to do so for the rest of this academic year, she will also provide cover on an ad-hoc basis for the next school year.

Annual Questionnaires

These were sent home in term 5- thank you to everyone who completed and returned them! We received many lovely comments, along with some points for reflection. 90% of respondents gave us an overall grade of 'outstanding,' with 5% giving us 'good' and 5% hovered between 'outstanding/good'. We had 22 questionnaires returned. Thank you also to our children who gave their feedback; their responses can be seen displayed in our Garden Room.

Incidental Learning Board

Thank you to everyone who returned the idea 'clouds', we had some great ideas on how you encourage a love of learning, using every-day routines and experiences at home. The clouds will be displayed this term, in one of the main windows.

Lunch times

Please label lunch boxes on the outside, as children often have the same one!



Please ensure lunches reflect healthy options - we ask that no sweets are sent in and that **NO NUT PRODUCTS** are included due to **ALLERGIES**. Please also be aware of the portion size, as children have a limited time to finish their lunch and often leave

food unfinished if there is too much! ***Please Note:** we do not have facilities to keep lunch boxes cool for the children, therefore as the warmer weather arrives, please use ice/chill packs to keep food fresh. Food that requires chilling should not be left out of the fridge for any longer than 4 hours.

Invoices/fees

Please ensure that these are paid by the date shown on the envelope unless other arrangements have been agreed - thank you.

Helping Out at Rainbow Teddies

We invite Rising School parents, carers, grandparents and other adult family members to help out in a session; a helper rota sheet is on the parent information board outside, ready for you to 'sign up'. We also need volunteers to help with the washing; another sheet for this is also placed outside. If anyone is able to help with our Puzzles and Games (PAG) library once per week that would be really helpful and if there are any keen gardeners out there, our garden could do with some TLC!

If you would be willing to come in and give a short talk to the children, about your work/job we would love to hear from you! Please speak to a member of staff.

General Reminders

- **Please ensure all coats and jumpers are named.**
- Please do not park in front of the school gates or on the zig zag markings on the main road.
- Please dismount from all bikes/trikes/scooters on school grounds
- Please ensure that you shut/bolt both gates as you pass through.
- Please do not leave bikes or scooters at R.T as they are a safety risk to the children and staff when outside.
- When collecting your child, please ensure that you are positioned where the staff member releasing children can see you!

Holidays and Absence Over 5 Days

If your child is absent for any reason, please ring staff to let them know - if it is for a period of 5 days or more we require this to be put in writing (under terms of the Funded Entitlement). We have

created a simple 'absence slip' to make this easier for you; please just ask a member of staff.

Health and hygiene

In order to monitor outbreaks please notify the setting if your child is affected by any illness.

Sickness or diarrhoea



All children should be kept away from pre-school for **a full 48 hours** from the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. Guidelines state that hand hygiene greatly reduces the transfer of viruses, so please encourage and support your children to wash their hands thoroughly and frequently.

Planning

Teddy Tots - Last term children were busy exploring nature! This term they will re-visit previous termly 'themes', to help consolidate their learning.

Rising School -Last term children learned about the local environment, and 'people who help us'. They also enjoyed a visit to Thornbury Castle. This term, they will be learning about holidays, transport and outer space. We will also be helping to prepare children for transition to school.

Rising School - 'Sound of the Week'

We encourage you to find an item at home with your child; beginning with the relevant 'sound' and then for them to bring it in to share with us. *We are focusing on the 'sound'* as the aim is to have children 'tune into' the initial sound in a word; this skill is needed before they can truly understand the 'rules' for *writing* words. For e.g. the sound 's' ('ss') you could use sand, soap for the initial sound- this will help children to learn about sound-letter correspondence. Please see Lynne for further information.

School Transition Visits.

You should soon receive invitations from your child's school regarding visits to Reception- if you are unsure about the dates for these please contact us, or the school concerned directly. We will be taking children to visit Manorbrook and St.Mary's over the course of term 6. Where schools are too far away for us to walk with the children, we will invite Reception teachers to visit Rainbow Teddies.

PE Kit Reminder:

All Rising School children should now have a named PE kit which should be left at R.T at all times- please tell your child this too, as some get quite worried when we ask them to leave their PE kit at RT!

Trip to Cattle Country

A visit to Cattle Country is booked for Friday 5th July.



This trip brings both Rising School and Teddy Tot families together and is usually a lovely social event for all of our children and their families. Please note that there will not be a Rising School session at pre-school on 5th July. If you are unable to find a suitable adult to accompany your child on this visit, you will be offered a full refund for the session; if applicable.

Thornbury Carnival Parade Saturday 6th July

The theme for the carnival this year is 'Sport for All'. As usual, we will be taking part in the parade and encourage everyone to wear bright, colourful clothing or sportswear! We will have colourful ribbon sticks, should children wish to hold/wave them. **Please look out for further 'parade information' later in the term.**

Party Time!

All Rainbow teddies children are invited to the end of year parties:

The **Teddy Tot's** party is on **Monday 22nd July** during the usual session time.

Rising School's party is also on **Monday 22nd July** during session time. Parents/carers are invited to the **Graduation/Commendation ceremony at 10:45 a.m.** on the same day (details to follow).

Named party boxes will be provided beforehand for both groups of children; to bring in their own party food.

Arrival and Collection time

We appreciate that occasionally you might arrive or collect a bit later than usual, but please do try to consistently arrive and collect promptly! It is very distracting for children in the morning when others arrive late for registration and it can be unsettling for children when parents/carers arrive late at the end of session. Thank you for your support with this!

Rising School Session Choices

Letters confirming September sessions will be issued in the next week or so.

There are spaces available in both Rising School and Teddy Tots for September 2019- please let friends and family know to give me a call or to send an email; to book a visit or for more details about sessions.

Final Thank you!

Thank you to all our staff, students and volunteers for their hard work and dedication to Rainbow Teddies this year!

We say farewell and wish every future success to our children; and their families, leaving Rainbow Teddies at the end of term.

Here's hoping for some sunshine and an enjoyable summer break for everyone!



Kind Regards
Nanda Lee

Event	Date
End Year R.S & T.T trip to 'Cattle Country' Info' to follow	Friday 5 th July
Thornbury Carnival and Parade- Info' to follow	Saturday 6 th July
Rising School Graduation/Commendation and Party - All R.S welcome	Monday 22 nd July details to follow
Teddy Tot end of year party - All T.T welcome	Monday 22 nd July details to follow
End of term 6	Tuesday 23rd July
Start of Autumn term	Wednesday 4th September