

**YSGOL GYNRADD A MEITHRIN STRYD SIORS
GEORGE STREET PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL**

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Monday 15 June 2020

Dear parent/carers

I am writing to provide some further information following the standard letter that we circulated on behalf of the local authority last Wednesday. The information I can provide at this stage is limited as some decisions have yet to be finalised by the Local Authority (LA) / Welsh Government (WG).

However, you will know that last week's letter made clear the importance of returning the attached form if you are intending for your child(ren) to return to school at agreed times during the remainder of term following Monday 29th June. I must stress that it is **ESSENTIAL THAT A FORM IS RETURNED BY THIS WEDNESDAY IF YOU WISH FOR YOUR CHILD TO ATTEND SCHOOL** later this term. If we do not receive a form by the end of this Wednesday (17th June) we will not be able to include your child(ren) in our plans and they will not be assigned to a group. They will not then be able to attend school following the partial reopening.

I recognise that some parents/carers feel unable to come to a decision without more information.

To help you in your decision I am therefore listing a series of points that I feel confident we can adhere to whatever the outcome of pending LA and WG decisions. These points are consistent with the details contained in the standard LA letter posted via twitter and our school website last week.

1. Individual children will only **attend school for a small number of days during the four week window**. The WG has indicated that every child will have the opportunity to attend for a minimum of three days. This is to ensure that all children whose parents wish them to attend have the chance to do so, while keeping the number of children in school at any one time to a workable number.
2. The school will open to children from all year groups at the same time.
3. Normal classes will be split so that only a small proportion (between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$) of pupils attend on any given day. This will enable us to keep groups small and to practise social distancing as effectively as possible.
4. Wherever possible, children will be based with the same teachers, in the same classrooms as usual.
5. Children will be organised into consistent groups. They will keep to these groups throughout their time in school, including at break and lunch times. Children in one group will not mix with those in another.
6. Siblings will be invited into school on the same days. There may be a slight staggering of arrival and collection times but we will keep this to a minimum.

7. We will try to take account of friendships in organising groups but clearly, given the smaller numbers and individual parental decisions about which children will attend, children may find that they are in a group that does not include the friends they wish to be with.
8. Plans concerning provision for the children of keyworkers will be confirmed before school reopens. Any provision in the remainder of term following our partial reopening will be based in school and will operate for school hours. As has been the case over the last 12 weeks, key worker provision will only be available at points when there is no other means for children to be looked after safely.
9. As the hub facility for keyworker children will continue in school until Friday 26th June, it is possible that partial re-opening may not take place until Tuesday 30th June or Wednesday 1st July. This is to ensure that time is available to prepare the school following the end of hub operation.

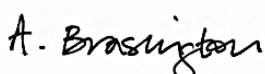
It is highly likely that a pattern of blended learning will continue for the autumn and, probably, spring term. This will mean that children will continue to spend part of their week learning in school and part of it completing activities at home.

We are committed to making both of these elements as beneficial and effective as possible in order to support our children's learning and well-being successfully.

We have received over 200 responses to our recent survey and I am enormously heartened by the overwhelmingly positive feedback you have provided. School staff have continued to work hard in radically different circumstances to support children and families during the last few months. We are working strategically on how we can best develop and improve our work in the medium and long term and your views and suggestions are helping to shape these plans. Thank you very much for your support, your patience and your constructive outlook.

I will write again later in the week with further details. In the meantime please complete the form on last week's letter if you want your child(ren) to be in on agreed days before the end of term. The LA letter is available on the school website if you wish to re-read it.

Kind regards,



Mr A Brasington