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

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Friday 10 July 2020

Dear parent/carers

We are at the end of our second successful week of partial reopening and I am once again pleased to report that children have thoroughly enjoyed their days in school. They have shared time with class mates and teachers over a range of activities indoors and out that have got everyone's brains and bodies working. There has been lots of opportunity to catch-up and to learn together in small groups and every child who has returned will have two further days building on this before the end of term on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> July.

### SCHOOL REOPENING IN SEPTEMBER

Meanwhile, I am acutely aware that all parents are keen at this moment to know the school's plans for September.

Following the Education Minister, Kirsty Williams', announcement yesterday I can confirm that all children who currently attend the school (with the exception of our present Year 6 pupils) will be back in George Street on a full-time basis from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September will be non-pupil days (as usual). These will provide essential time for final preparations.

In any normal year, we would have completed a variety of transition activities by now; including our move-up week, visits to high schools and enhanced transitions for identified pupils. These arrangements prepare pupils for change and help them to settle happily and make progress quickly. Clearly, it has not been possible to carry out any of these preparations this year.

It is my belief that for families and pupils to return confidently in September a degree of continuity is vital. For this reason, we are planning for all of our current pupils to re-join the class they were in last March when they return in September. This will allow nearly all pupils to restart without the immediate challenge of adjusting to a new class, an unfamiliar environment or new members of staff on their return.

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, all foundation phase pupils (CURRENT Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) will return to their previous classes for the day. On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September, all key stage 2 pupils (CURRENT Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5) will do the same. This will provide two days for us to test our procedures before all pupils return on Monday 7<sup>th</sup>.

Children will remain in their 'old' classes for two weeks, until Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September. We will use this time to carry out catch-up teaching, to secure pupils' well-being after the long time away from school and to carry out transition activities ready for their move-up. Activities will include a 'Move-up Day' for pupils on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September. Children will then start in their new class on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

*Together we live learn and value*

## **NEW STARTERS (NURSERY & RECEPTION)**

For children who have **not yet started school** and will be joining as **new** Nursery or Reception pupils (including those who were due to join Nursery in April 2020), we will be holding meetings for parents on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Each meeting will last about one hour and will provide an opportunity for parents to meet with staff and to learn about the arrangements for pupils in Nursery and Reception. We know that you will have many questions about your child's entry to school and we will provide plenty of opportunity during each meeting to address these fully.

Children will then be invited to participate in our Move-up Day (a half-day session for Nursery pupils) on the 16<sup>th</sup> September, after which we will give you a start date for your child to join their new class.

## **PUPILS TRANSFERRING TO GEORGE STREET IN SEPTEMBER**

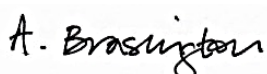
Pupils who are moving to George Street from other schools at the beginning of next year will start on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. They will join their class for the catch-up and transition activities over the next fortnight, including the Move-up Day on the 16<sup>th</sup> September, before moving with their new class mates on the 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Clearly, practical considerations regarding safety will remain high on our agenda for September. However, we have benefitted significantly from our experience as a hub and during the current partial reopening and I am confident that our existing measures can be adapted to meet the logistical challenges for September. We will continue to work with the local authority to revise our risk assessment to meet the requirements for full-scale operation. We will communicate details of the practical arrangements to be followed in school and by parents nearer the time.

Further operational guidance will be provided by WG and our LA next week. It is likely that I will provide another update then and certainly at the beginning of September. As mentioned in my last letter, please make sure that you access the school's Twitter account [@georgestretpri](#) and the school website ([www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk](http://www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk)) to stay informed about arrangements. Please also keep us up to date with your contact numbers to make sure that you receive our text notifications.

It has been a long road and difficult road for everyone to arrive at this point. As we reach the end of term in this exceptionally challenging year it is good to have positive news to focus on. The steadfast response of our whole school community over recent months has been uplifting. In many cases the tie between home and school has been strengthened by this experience; seeing so clearly the benefit for children where families and staff work in collaboration with one another has improved our shared understanding and enhanced our mutual respect. This is one silver lining that it will be good to nurture into the future.

Kind regards,



Mr A Brasington