



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

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Friday 18 September 2020

Dear parent/carers

Another busy week enlivened by our Move-up Day on Wednesday which created a buzz of excitement across the school as children moved into their new classes for the day. 'Amazing', 'great', 'brilliant' and 'strange' all words used by children to describe how it feels to be in an unfamiliar class with different adults to work alongside. Judging by the enthusiasm and smiles, nobody was left feeling strange by the end of the day and I know that children are really looking forward to starting in their new classes full-time from next week.

We have also restarted our breakfast club this week and our kitchen team have begun serving hot meals at lunch time. Both of these have gone well and mark another small step closer to realising our 'new normal'.

We have, of course, to remain vigilant. As you know, there is a general increase in transmission of the virus and a number of broad measures have been introduced to minimise risk. These include local lockdowns in two authorities very close to us in Pontypool. This despite the advice for everyone to take greater care. Please help our community by continuing to socially distance at drop-off and pick-up times and respecting the Rule of Six.

ENTRANCES AND EXITS FROM MONDAY 21st

Next week, all pupils will begin full-time in their new classes. For some parents, this will mean using a different entrance/exit from the one you have used until now. The table below is a reminder of the start and finish times of your child's year group and the correct entrance and exit to use.

	Beginning of day	End of day	Access via
Nursery	9.00 / 12.45	11.30 / 3.15	Conway Road
Reception	8:50	3:05	Conway Road
Year 1	9.00	3:15	School Lane
Year 2	8:50	3:05	School Lane
Year 3	8:50	3:05	Field & George St steps
Year 4	9:00	3:15	George St ramp
Year 5	9.00	3:15	Field & George St steps
Year 6	8:50	3:05	Field & George St ramp

Can all parents of pupils in Years 3, 5 and 6 who are lining up the field on the far side of George Street please note that it is not necessary to stay with pupils. Once staff are present, pupils can be left under the supervision of staff so that numbers of adults can be reduced to aid social distancing. Thank you.

PACKED LUNCHES

While hot meals have recently been reintroduced, children are still welcome to bring packed lunches. Where possible, please avoid giving children items in packaging that they cannot open themselves. While staff on duty are very careful about hygiene, adult handling of children's food items increases risk. In particular, yoghurt tubes that children then suck on should be avoided. If you have to use packaged items, please open them at home and place in a sealable container your child can open or use a clip/tie fastening to keep the food fresh.

ACCESS TO TESTING

As explained in last week's letter, children who have symptoms of a common cold but are well enough to attend school should do so. It is only necessary for children or other family members to seek a test for coronavirus when they have one or more of the following symptoms:

- New continuous cough
- High temperature
- Loss of taste and/or smell

As you will be aware, demand for the testing service is very high at the moment and it is important that only those with symptoms of coronavirus apply for a test.

The following video produced by Welsh Government provides useful advice about when to have a test:

https://twitter.com/wg_education/status/1303377633565118464?s=21

PUPIL LEADERS

Congratulations to our pupil leaders who have been newly appointed to their roles this week:

Head Girl	Seren-Louise Jones-Jeavans
Head Boy	Morgan Williams
Deputy Head Girl	Lucy-Mae Cook
Deputy Head Boy	Frankie Harris-Phillips
School Council Chairperson	Macey Johnson
Sports Ambassadors:	Harrison Wallace, David Olamikan, Seren Hern, Kelsie Thomas, Morgan Davies & Rebecca Scriven



TWITTER

With children moving to their new classes from Monday, parents/carers will want to follow new Twitter accounts. All home pages have been updated to reflect staffing arrangements for this year and you can follow your child's class using details below:



	Please follow
Nursery	@GSPrisnowdrop
Reception	@GSPrireception
Year 1	@GSPriYear1
Year 2	@GSPriYear2
Year 3	@GSPriYear3
Year 4	@GSPriYear4
Year 5	@GSPriYear5
Year 6	@GSPriYear6
Whole School	@Georgestreetpri

If you haven't signed up for twitter please do so. The app is free and very easy to use. Just search for the Twitter handle above and follow. We share information via Twitter frequently and it is particularly helpful at present.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

We will not be able to hold our usual face-to-face parents consultations this term. Instead, we will be doing the following:

1. Your child's class teacher will contact you by phone in the week beginning Monday 5th October for a brief chat to discuss how your child has settled into their new class. This 'wellbeing call' will provide an opportunity to share information early on following your child's first two weeks in their new class.
2. Your child's class teacher will make a second phone call in the week beginning Monday 23rd November to discuss specific aspects of your child's progress in class.

We will use our usual booking system to arrange individual times with you. More details will follow.

Kind regards,

A. Brasington

Mr A Brasington