



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

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Friday 13 November 2020

Dear parent/carers

We have enjoyed another busy and productive week in school. We are using this time earnestly to make sure that every week provides children with the opportunities and experiences they need to make progress – so many of which were unavoidably missing last year. And it is working; there is a purposeful focus around the school and a buzz of activity as pupils and teachers enjoy working together.

At this point we are also looking ahead to the upcoming festive season. As you will know, we cannot host the usual concerts and performances that usually take place in December. However, we have given a lot of thought to our plans this year and are making sure that all children enjoy plenty of festive fun in the lead up to Christmas this term.



ELF DAY

To start the month off on an exciting note, Elf Day will take place on Tuesday 1st December. All children are invited to come to school in festive dress for a day of Christmas-themed activities. During Elf Day this year we will be recording Christmas songs from each year group for a whole-school compilation that we will make available for parents/carers through the school website.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

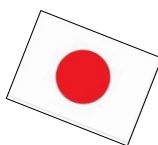
In addition to specific activities in individual year groups, this year we will be running a whole-school festive themed 'Christmas Around the World' during the last week of term.

Year groups have selected different countries as a focus for the week and will be enjoying a range of activities linked to their chosen location. They will learn about unique traditions, make and taste festive foods, create art and craft work and learn songs and stories linked to their country. They will also share their learning with others in school so that we can all find out about the diverse ways in which Christmas is celebrated around the globe.

If you would like to do a little investigating with your child in the meantime, the chosen destinations are:

Nursery
Reception
Year 1
Year 2
Year 3
Year 4
Year 5
Year 6

Germany
The North Pole (an imaginary country but nevertheless)
Israel
France
Wales
Japan
China
Germany



The Christmas trees will still be in the hall and around the school as usual and we are organising a festive reward for all pupils as a thank you for the hard work and responsibility they have shown this term.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

School Christmas lunch will take place on Wednesday 16th December. This will feature a traditional menu with vegetarian option at the normal price of £2.30 (foundation phase) or £2.40 (key stage 2). All children are welcome to have Christmas lunch regardless of their normal routine.

Lunch will take place in the school hall observing our current safety arrangements meaning that there will be no mixing of 'bubbles'.



PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Invites have gone out this week via text for all parents to book a phone consultation about your child(ren) with their class teacher during the week beginning Monday 23rd November. These are ten minute appointments to provide you with an update on your child's progress this term. Please book your slot using the online system and your child's class teacher will call you at the agreed time. Staff will be using school phone lines which may show as a 'private number' when they call so please do pick up.

WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS / DISTANCING

Many thanks to parents in Years 1&2 for wearing face coverings when entering the school playground at the end of the day. Also for waiting at a distance in year groups while taking turns to pick up children. Your regard for the safety of others, including school staff and other pupils is much appreciated.

At the same time, can I make a particular plea to parents of pupils in Years 3 and 5 not to wait on or alongside the path / grass while classes gather to enter school at the start of the day. To limit the number of adults, I strongly encourage parents to leave once staff are present. Staff are on hand to supervise pupils and it is easier and safer for them to do so with fewer adults present.

Can parents/carers of pupils waiting to attend breakfast club please keep pupils with you until they are called to enter at 8.30. At present, some pupils are congregating at the gate in readiness and as a result are mixing with others not in their bubble. It is important for all children given the possible knock-on effect of any case in school that bubbles are kept separate at all times.

I appreciate that we are constantly asking for your support with observing guidelines and meeting requests. Your support to date has been fantastic and is helping to keep everyone safe. Please persevere and help with these little tweaks to make sure that we can all continue to make school as safe as we are able. Thank you.



SCHOOL TELEPHONES OFF LINE

An upgrade is being made to the school IT network that will affect our phone lines for a period on Monday next week (16th November). Please be aware that it may not be possible to answer or respond to calls during this time. Technicians will have the system running again as soon as is possible once the essential work is completed.

Kind regards,

A. Brasington

Mr A Brasington