



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

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Wednesday 25 November 2020

Dear parent/carers, a few updates to share with you;

NON-UNIFORM DAY

I am very pleased to report that whole school attendance has been rising across this term and every week we are seeing fewer pupils absent. Last week, for instance, 10 classes had over 90%+ attendance, three over our usual high threshold of 95% and one class with 100%. This is fantastic news. We all know how beneficial it is for children to be in school, both socially and academically and it is good to see that overall attendance levels are starting to look similar to those in 'normal' times.

This welcome trend clearly reflects the increasing confidence parents and carers feel. At the same time, I want to reassure all families that we are continuing to be vigilant in school. There is no room for complacency in our procedures and we are continuing to monitor, evaluate and adjust our practices to make sure that the safety of pupils and staff is protected to the full extent that we are able. Weekly meetings with service leads in the authority and with leaders in other schools ensure that all updates in guidance are considered appropriately and our approach as a school is consistent with the best information available to us. Making sure that school is as safe as possible remains our number one priority.

In appreciation of your ongoing support and as a reward to every pupil for overall attendance, we are inviting all pupils to come to school in non-uniform this **Friday, 27th November**. This is not a 'themed' day so pupils can come dressed as they wish.

CHILDREN IN NEED

A quick update to advise that donations received in school for the annual Children in Need appeal day totalled £106.43. After a period of quarantining, this money will be paid directly into the appeal. Thank you.

SELF-ISOLATION

As you are probably aware, pupils and staff in one year group have begun self-isolation today following confirmation of a positive case. I would like to thank parents/carers of affected pupils for the way in which you responded to notification from school. This is the first time that this procedure has been run during the school day and your help in acting swiftly and calmly is appreciated.

We have taken note of feedback about text messaging and appreciate that where you have more than one child in school we need to make our message clearer to avoid uncertainty. We will tweak this for any future instance – thank you for your feedback.

We have written separately to all parents/carers of pupils who are self-isolating to provide advice and explain procedures for home learning. For the awareness of all parents, please note that any pupil who is required to self-isolate **MUST** remain at home during the self-isolation period.

WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS

The Welsh Government has updated its guidance on the use of face coverings in schools. To reduce the risk of transmission amongst parents and relatives, all adults are being asked to wear masks when visiting

school at drop-off and collection times. Maintaining clear social distance at the school gates will also reduce risk and provide a good example for pupils.

This guidance has been strengthened to keep families as safe as possible. Guidelines are based on new advice from the Welsh Government's Technical Advisory Group as more is learnt about the way COVID-19 is transmitted.

DROP OFF & COLLECTION

While there has been very good news on attendance over recent weeks, a small number of parents have been arriving late with pupils or collecting pupils late at the end of the day. A reminder of the drop-off and pick up times for each year group is provided in the timetable below.

In order to maintain the independence of year group 'bubbles', pupils who arrive late have to be collected by staff from classes. This inevitably disrupts learning as staff who are busy working with pupils already in school then have to interrupt their activity to fetch latecomers.

	Beginning of day	End of day
Nursery	9.00 / 12.45	11.30 / 3.15
Reception	8:50	3:05
Year 1	9.00	3:15
Year 2	8:50	3:05
Year 3	8:50	3:05
Year 4	9:00	3:15
Year 5	9.00	3:15
Year 6	8:50	3:05

In addition, pupils arriving late are not arriving at school by the agreed entrance. This is concentrating traffic on our main reception entrance and increasing the transmission risk across bubbles which we have worked very hard to minimise.

At the end of the day, staff who have other work to attend to are similarly delayed when parents do not arrive on time to collect children.

We fully appreciate that there may be odd occasions when specific circumstances can make parents and pupils late. In the rare instances when this happens unexpectedly and parents contact the school to tell us of a problem we always respond to these situations flexibly.

From next Monday the following procedures for drop-off and collection will be in place, specifically to address routine patterns of lateness:

1. DROP OFF

- The four gate entrances will be staffed and remain open until 9.05am each morning.
- Any parent/carer arriving with pupils after 9.05am will have to bring pupils to their normal entrance (not to the main reception) and phone the school office on the number above. Office staff will then contact your child's class so that a member of staff can meet them at the gate.

2. COLLECTION

- A member of staff from your child's class will wait with pupils at the usual gate until 3.20 each day. Any pupils who are not collected by 3.20 will be taken back to their classroom.
- Parents arriving after 3.20 will have to come to the main reception gate and ring for attention. Once your class have been informed, a member of staff will bring your child to the main reception gate.

TESTING

I am aware that a number of families are carrying out home testing of pupils to check whether or not they have the virus without showing any symptoms. Any parents/carers doing so need to follow this guidance:

- Any child who is being / has been tested, at home or in a testing centre, **MUST NOT** attend school until a negative test result is received. Pupils **MUST NOT** attend school while waiting for a result.
- Similarly, if anyone your child lives with is being / has been tested then your child **MUST NOT** attend school until a negative test result for that member of the household is received. Again, pupils **MUST NOT** attend school while a result is being waited for.

Kind regards,

A. Brasington Mr A Brasington