

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

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Monday 04 January 2021

Dear parent/carers

Happy New Year to all of our pupils and families. I hope that you have had an enjoyable Christmas and that you have managed to keep safe and well over the holiday.

While we have reached the turning point of the year, everyone will be aware that the difficulties that beset 2020 have not sadly been left behind. The new year usually brings some much needed optimism with a flowering of positive resolutions that express our ambition for the months ahead. Despite the difficulties that we know we face, let's hang on to that spirit of resolve at the start of this year knowing that things will gradually improve.

And it will be gradual - from a school perspective, we know that there will be at least another full term (and likely longer) of continuing challenge and disruption. So, let me begin 2021 by saying that our top priority remains keeping children and staff as safe as possible while also minimising the impact of disruption on pupils' learning and wellbeing. Once again, the success of this effort will be greatly enhanced with the help and cooperation of our families. Your support has been immense to date and is vital in helping us to keep our school community safe and working effectively.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL

I can confirm that our plans for reopening at the start of this term remain unchanged. A summary of these arrangements is provided in the table below.

| | IN SCHOOL (face-to-face learning) | HOME LEARNING (Seesaw) |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| TUESDAY 5 TH JAN | | ALL PUPILS |
| WEDNESDAY 6 TH JAN | | ALL PUPILS |
| THURSDAY 7 TH JAN | KEYWORKER/VULNERABLE PUPILS | ALL OTHER PUPILS |
| FRIDAY 8 TH JAN | KEYWORKER/VULNERABLE PUPILS | ALL OTHER PUPILS |
| MONDAY 11 TH JAN | ALL PUPILS | |

In light of changing circumstances since the end of last term, particularly the new variant of the coronavirus, there are ongoing discussions this week about the possible need to adjust these arrangements. However, I am advising all parents/carers to plan on the basis above.

If there is a change in circumstances that will impact on these arrangements, I will contact you again to confirm this as soon as possible.

Guidance for keyworker parents/carers who wish for children to access school on Thursday and/or Friday of this week is given overleaf.

ATTENDANCE OF KEYWORKER / VULNERABLE PUPILS

The WG has produced a list of eligible keyworkers which you can check on the school's website at: <https://www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk/media/3738/guidance-published-by-the-welsh-ministers-on-identifying-children-of-critical-workers.pdf>

Any parents/carers meeting the criteria on this list who wish for their child(ren) to attend school on Thursday 7th and/or Friday 8th January **must notify the school office by phone or email between school hours on Tuesday 5th or Wednesday 6th January.** This is to ensure that we are able to plan effectively.

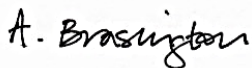
Please note the following:

1. Pupils will not be able to attend on the 7th / 8th January without prior agreement and confirmation from school (see *deadline above*).
2. Pupils attending on the 7th / 8th January may form part of one mixed-age bubble.
3. Pupils are unlikely to be taught / supervised by their usual members of staff or in their usual classroom.
4. Provision for pupils will run between 9.00 and 3.10.
5. Pupils will need to bring a packed lunch as no catering will be available on site.

Please note that parents/carers of vulnerable pupils will be contacted by the school directly.

Any parents/carers needing to speak with school staff at the start of term should contact the school office using the phone number or email at the top of this letter and we will assist with any queries you may have.

Kind regards,



Mr A Brasington