



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

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Friday 05 February 2021

Dear parent/carers

I am writing to provide some initial information about our plans for pupils after the half term break.

As you will know from today's WG press conference, foundation phase pupils (aged 3-7) across Wales will begin a phased return to face-to-face learning in the week beginning Monday 22nd February. This means that pupils in our Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes will begin returning to school after the half term break.

Details of how this phased return will take place, including on what dates pupils will return, will be provided next week.

KEY WORKER & VULNERABLE PUPILS

In addition to the face-to-face return of foundation phase pupils, the school will continue its existing provision for vulnerable and keyworker children in Years 3-6 (key stage 2) after half term.

All places in the school's temporary hub have now been allocated. Those key stage 2 children who are currently attending can continue to do so from February 22nd. However, school has no further capacity to increase these numbers.

HOME LEARNING

Staff will continue to provide home learning for pupils in **key stage 2 ONLY** after the half term break.

The timetable for next week's live sessions in key stage 2 is below:

LIVE SESSIONS	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
w/b 08.02.2021 Monday 1 st	10.50 Check in/weekly planner	10.10 Check in/weekly planner	11.00 – 11.30 Penfro 11.30 – 12.00 Caerdydd Check in/weekly planner	09.30 Check in/weekly planner
Tuesday 2 nd		10.10 Literacy		09.30 Literacy
Wednesday 3 rd	10.10 Maths session		11.00 - 11.40 Literacy/Forest School session	
Thursday 4 th	10.50 Literacy session	09.30 Maths session	11.00 – 11.30 Penfro 11.30 – 12.00 Caerdydd Maths Bingo session	10.10 Maths
Friday 5 th	10.50 Check out/assembly	09.30 Check out/assembly	11.00 Penfro 11.30 Caerdydd Spellings/Check out/assembly	10.10 Check out/assembly

As all foundation phase staff will be teaching pupils in Nursery to Year 2 in school, provision for home learning for these year groups will end on Friday 12th February.

THE DECISION TO REOPEN

The WG has taken the decision to begin a partial reopening of schools while other lockdown measures continue. This decision has been made because of the high importance placed on pupil's learning and the clear social and well-being benefits of attending school.

The decision to begin with foundation phase pupils is based on the recognition that:

1. The youngest pupils have greatest difficulty in accessing home learning effectively.
2. The youngest pupils also have the lowest risk of harm from the virus and appear to play a lesser role in its spread.

This partial reopening is a cautious approach while other lockdown measures remain in place. This is because the risk of transmission remains high. The reopening of schools will inevitably mean an increase in social mixing. While rates are currently falling, an increase in social mixing may cause these to rise again. For this reason it is vital that everyone continue working together to control these risks as much as possible.

HELPING TO AVOID A FURTHER LOCKDOWN & SCHOOL CLOSURE

There are simple, essential steps that all parents/carers and families should continue to take to ensure that case rates continue to lessen and schools are enabled to open.

- Strictly follow the current level 4 lockdown rules
- Arrive on time when dropping off and collecting pupils. **This means** not arriving early which leads to groups of parent/carers mixing for longer periods at the school gates.
- Leave straight after dropping off and collecting pupils.
- Stringently avoid social contact with other parents/carers when dropping off and collecting children. **This means** maintaining a clear 2m social distance at all times and wearing a face covering throughout your time at the school gates.
- In addition, do not mix with other households at home or when children are playing outside school. Being part of a bubble in school does not make it safe for your child to mix with other children from their bubble when not in school. Children must not participate in play days / sleepovers / parties etc. Such activities clearly breach the regulations and increase the risk for everyone.

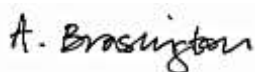
The partial reopening of schools is **NOT A RETURN TO NORMAL**. It is only possible to begin reopening school because of the impact of the wider measures that have been in place since Christmas. If families begin mixing, rates will inevitably increase and the situation will worsen again.

To keep school open it is essential that everyone continue to follow the guidance. Thank you.

There are a number of operational issues regarding the reopening that have yet to be worked through. Schools across the authority will be in discussions with Torfaen CBC next week to resolve these and to ensure that the return to school next half term is as safe as possible.

I will write to you again next week when further details about our arrangements are finalised.

Kind regards,



Mr A Brasington