



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

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Thursday 11 February 2021

Dear parent/carers

I am writing to update you regarding our plans for pupils after the half term break.

Revised operational guidance produced by the Welsh Government (WG) was released yesterday. This information is crucial in informing our risk assessment and we are ensuring that our plans match this guidance before we reopen. This will provide our pupils, parents and staff with the reassurance that the school is taking all the necessary steps to make sure that the return of pupils is as safe as possible.

WHEN WILL MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL?

All pupils in our Early Years (Nursery & Reception) and foundation phase (Year 1 and Year 2) classes will be able to return to school on Wednesday 24th February.

Monday 22nd February and Tuesday 23rd February will be used by staff in school to finalise preparations for reopening. We will also provide home learning for all pupils on these days and continue the existing face-to-face attendance for vulnerable pupils and children of keyworkers.

Home learning via Seesaw and online sessions will remain in place after Tuesday 23rd February for **KEY STAGE 2 PUPILS ONLY**. Children of keyworkers and vulnerable pupils in Years 3-6 who already access the school's hub provision will continue doing so until school reopens for all key stage 2 pupils.

All of these arrangements are summarised below.

	Nursery to Year 2	Years 3-6	Keyworker & vulnerable
Monday 22 nd February	Home learning	Home learning continues throughout ↓	All attend Hub
Tuesday 23 rd February	Home learning		All attend Hub
Wednesday 24 th February	Return to school		KS2 only continue attending Hub
Thursday 25 th February	No home learning – pupils in school		↓

Rising three pupils who were due to join our Nursery class in January will begin a staggered start in the week beginning Monday 1st March. We will contact all families directly with precise details during the first week after the half term break.

HOME LEARNING

Friday 12th February will be the final day of home learning this half term. Home learning for all pupils not attending our hub will restart on Monday 22nd February. The live session timetable for KS2 pupils in the first week of next half term is provided below.



Home learning provision for all pupils in foundation phase will end on Tuesday 23rd February as pupils will return to school on the following day. We will make specific arrangements for any foundation phase pupils who remain at home because they are following guidance to shield as they are identified as clinically extremely vulnerable.

Our staff will make every effort to ensure that provision for home learning maintains the high quality that has been evident this term. However, with the school providing face-to-face teaching, hub provision and home learning simultaneously for three different groups of pupils our capacity will be very stretched. Where absence or unforeseen circumstance limit our capacity further there may be a temporary impact on home learning provision. Should this occur, we will keep all parents/carers full informed and seek to overcome any barriers as speedily and efficiently as possible.

KEY STAGE 2 LIVE SESSIONS BEGINNING MONDAY 22.02.2021				
	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
Monday 22 nd	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 23 rd		10.10 Literacy		09.30 Literacy
Wednesday 24 th	10.10 Maths session		11.00 - 11.40 Literacy/Forest School session	
Thursday 25 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 26 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

LUNCH AND BREAKFAST CLUB

There will be no lunch or breakfast club provision at the start of next half term. Direct payments for pupils eligible for free school meals will continue and all pupils will need to bring a packed lunch to school. These arrangements will be kept under review and we will provide all parents/carers with notice of any change well ahead of time.

SAFETY MEASURES INCLUDING HANDS-FACE-SPACE

Protective measures, including hand hygiene, contact groups, adequate ventilation and enhanced cleaning will remain in place. Evidence demonstrates that these controls are effective in suppressing the spread of the virus. Given the obvious difficulty in maintaining consistent social distancing in primary schools, guidance from WVG now advises that all school staff should wear face coverings during the school day, including while working face-to-face with pupils in classes.

In line with this advice, our staff will wear face coverings throughout the school day next half term. We know that this presents some challenges around communication for children and adults. However, I am sure that you can appreciate the need to prioritise the safety of all members of our school community.

This measure is being introduced to protect the safety of staff. As you know, pupils are at very low risk of illness from COVID-19. The use of face coverings for primary pupils is not recommended. This is because the inappropriate and unnecessary handling of face coverings by young children is more likely to increase the risk of transmission than to reduce it.

DROPPING OFF AND COLLECTING PUPILS

Arrangements for the arrival and collection of pupils remain unchanged, see below:

	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

The partial reopening of schools is beginning while all other lockdown measures remain in place. This is because of the high value placed on the benefit for pupils' learning and well-being.

While the measures schools have in place will assist in making school as safe as possible for pupils, the partial reopening is not a return to normal. It is vitally important that all families stick to the existing lockdown measures so that community transmission does not rise.

PLEASE FOLLOW THESE STEPS

There are simple, essential steps that all parents/carers and families need to take to ensure that case rates continue to lessen and schools are enabled to stay 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 and children '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.
- 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.
- Current guidance makes it clear that children from different households must not participate in play days / sleepovers / parties, shared visits to the park etc. Such activities clearly breach the regulations and increase the risk for everyone.

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



We are very pleased to be welcoming back our foundation phase pupils. It has been a long time away and we know how keen they are to return and to see their friends and teachers again.

It has been a massive effort from everyone to reach this point and your support has been invaluable. I am hopeful that with continued effort it will be possible to extend this reopening so that all pupils will be able to benefit from attending school in the not too distant future.

I will, of course, keep you updated with any further developments.

In the meantime I wish all of our pupils, families and staff a safe and relaxing break over half term.

Kind regards,

A. Brasington

Mr A Brasington