



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

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Tuesday 09 March 2021

Dear parent/carers

### RETURN OF KEY STAGE 2 PUPILS

I am very pleased to confirm that all of our key stage 2 pupils (Years 3-6) will be able to return to school for the final two weeks of this half term, beginning on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March. This is a long-awaited moment and we are delighted that all of our pupils will be able to have time back in school with their friends and teachers in the fortnight before Easter.

We are very appreciative of the efforts of parents/carers in helping pupils with home learning during the three months since they last attended school. We know that this has been an enormous challenge for many and I am sure that you will be both pleased and relieved to see children return to school.

We are keen that everything be as familiar as possible for children's restart. Arrangements for the arrival and departure of pupils will remain unchanged. A reminder of timings is given in the table below.

	Beginning of day	End of day	Access via
<b>Year 3</b>	8:50	3:05	Field & George St steps
<b>Year 4</b>	9:00	3:15	George St ramp
<b>Year 5</b>	9:00	3:15	Field & George St steps
<b>Year 6</b>	8:50	3:05	George St ramp

As previously, only **one adult** should bring/collect children and all adults/families should disperse as quickly as possible at the start and end of the day.

If a pupil arrives late to school, parents should ring the school office on the number above and a member of staff will meet you and your child at the correct entrance. It is not possible for parents/carers to bring pupils to the main entrance/reception.

### CATERING

Play and lunch times will be staggered as previously. Pupils will eat lunch in the school hall, with contact groups socially distanced and timetabled to allow cleaning between sittings.

Lunch time catering will run as normal, providing the usual school lunch menu from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March. However, there will be no breakfast club for the remainder of this term.

### FACE COVERINGS

In line with the updated WG operational guidance and the school's risk assessment, all staff will continue to wear face coverings throughout the school day. This has been the case since our foundation phase pupils restarted at the beginning of this half term. As you can imagine, all pupils are familiar with adults wearing face masks and have adapted to this very readily. It is still the case that the wearing of face masks by primary pupils is not recommended. This is because the inappropriate and unnecessary handling of face coverings by younger children is more likely to increase the risk of transmission than to reduce it.

*Together we live learn and value*

A copy of the school's current risk assessment and our Health and Safety Executive Covid-19 compliance notice are available on the school's website at <https://www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk/covid-19/risk-assessments/>

### CHANGES TO KEY STAGE 2 LIVE SESSIONS THIS WEEK

In order to enable key stage 2 staff to prepare for the full return of pupils on Monday, the last complete day of live sessions this week will be tomorrow. This includes the planned session on the teaching of reading for Year 4 parents/carers which will continue at 1.30 tomorrow.

There will be no live sessions on Thursday or on Friday morning this week. However, the planned World Book Day sessions on Friday afternoon (Years 5&6 at 1.30 and Years 3&4 at 2.00) will go ahead.

### PROVISION FOR KEYWORKER/VULNERABLE CHILDREN

The school's current provision for keyworker/vulnerable children will continue to run for the rest of this week.

### EISTEDDFOD & COAST CHALLENGE UPDATE

Following last week's Eisteddfodau and the culmination of our coast challenge, I am pleased to confirm the following results which were announced during a live session yesterday:

EISTEDDFODAU						COAST CHALLENGE	
Foundation Phase		Key Stage 2		OVERALL		Glas	811 miles
Coch	100	Glas	358	Glas	452	Coch	802 miles
Glas	94	Gwyrdd	269	Coch	369	Gwyrdd	796 miles
Gwyrdd	84	Coch	269	Gwyrdd	353	TOTAL	2,409 miles

A superb effort from every team in both events. Special congratulations to Lacey Davey (Year 6) whose wonderful story writing earned her the honour of being selected as this year's Bard. Lacey was also kind/brave enough to read her story on Teams for everyone to share – Da lawn!

You will see that we far surpassed the target for the coast challenge, almost tripling the distance around the Welsh Coast Path. Fantastic to see so many children, parents, family members and staff putting their best feet forwards and benefitting from the challenge – teamwork and exercise used to great effect!

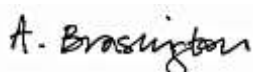
### AMBULANCE STATION SAFETY

We were contacted on Friday of last week by the station leader for the George Street Ambulance Station who was very concerned about the movement of children and parents through the station forecourt. As you will know, this area is crossed by vehicles that have to be despatched quickly in response to emergency calls. Anyone passing through this area, particularly young children who are not being closely supervised, is at potential risk of serious injury.

While I appreciate that the pedestrian walkway along the street is narrow and often busy, please be aware that it is wrong to assume that the ambulance station forecourt provides a safer route. It does not. Please do not walk across this area as you are placing yourself and your child(ren) at risk and presenting a hazard to emergency vehicles.

Can I also remind parents/carers that parking at the rear of the building is at the discretion of the ambulance station. Actions that compromise safety may lead to this facility being removed.

Kind regards,



Mr A Brasington