



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

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Friday 26 March 2020

Dear parent/carers

It has been a very positive end to the spring term after several long and difficult months. Our foundation phase pupils have enjoyed a solid half term and have made good strides in readjusting to busy school days full of learning and activity. It has been wonderful to have our key stage 2 pupils back in over the last fortnight and to be immersed in the buzz of school at full capacity. I know that all of our junior pupils have really benefitted from the opportunity to reconnect with friends and staff and to share in activities together. We have even rounded off the term with a Year 6-only assembly; something we have all missed.

This puts us in a good place to make the best of our time in the summer term and we look forward to welcoming pupils back on Tuesday 13th April.

We have been fortunate that there have been no cases in school since our return and no classes have had to self-isolate. While we clearly hope that this will continue it is essential that, as we ease gradually out of lockdown, we continue the same careful patterns of behaviour that have brought the virus to lower levels.

Whatever you are doing over the Easter break, keep in mind how hard-won any re-emerging freedom is. We must continue to keep each other and ourselves safe in the months ahead.

TRAFFIC AROUND THE SCHOOL

A number of parents have contacted the school in the last week to raise concerns about the movement of traffic on neighbouring roads at drop-off and pick-up times which is placing the safety of children and adult pedestrians at risk. I share these concerns which include;

- vehicles being driven too quickly on crowded roads lined with parked cars
- cars reversing dangerously in tight spaces and narrow lanes busy with pedestrians
- cars driving too close to pedestrians rather than waiting for the way to be clear
- vehicles being parked in unsafe locations and on pavements



We are all very well aware that the vicinity of the school is not suited to cope effectively with the volume of pedestrians and vehicles that fill the area at the start and end of the school day.

The risks listed above arise from the decisions made by individuals who choose to drive without the necessary care along narrow roads lined by pedestrians or who force pedestrians into the road by parking on the pavement or who obscure the school crossing by stopping on the yellow zig-zags. It is these individual actions that place others at risk.

Sadly, from my own observations at the front of school, on Conway Road and along School Lane, in many instances the vehicles causing these issues at either end of the school day are driven/parked by parents/carers.

While costly improvements may help, we also need to recognise that road engineering and additional parking will not succeed in removing all risks, particularly at very busy points in the day. Where a vehicle journey really cannot be avoided, then the best means in the immediate term and in the long term, to minimise the risk to pedestrians is for anyone visiting the area to show increased caution and consideration. This costs nothing but a little time and patience and will do more than anything else to keep everyone safe.

CHILDREN WITH COLDS/SNIFFLES

Looking ahead to next term it is still to be expected that children and families will be affected by the usual seasonal colds. As in the autumn term, if your child or any member of your household has symptoms of coronavirus then you should self-isolate and arrange a test to confirm. These symptoms remain:



- **A high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **A new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child has a cold without any of these symptoms and is otherwise well enough to be in school then they should attend as normal. If you are unsure, then please err on the side of caution and have your child tested and keep them at home until you know the result.

STAFF CHANGES IN YEAR 2

After the Easter break Mrs Larcombe will be returning to George Street to teach children in Daisy Class as Mrs Woods begins her maternity leave. Mrs Larcombe will work alongside Mr Elvambuenia (known by the children as Mr Harvey) who joined us this half term to cover for Ms Seward who has already started her maternity leave. Our best wishes go to Mrs Woods and Ms Seward.

INSET (NON-PUPIL) DAY

Just a reminder that Monday 12th April is a staff training day. School will reopen for all pupils on Tuesday 13th April, with breakfast club beginning at 8.30.

In the meantime, thank you to all of our families for your ongoing support. We wish you all a safe, happy and chocolatey Easter.

Kind regards,

A. Brasington

Mr A Brasington