

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

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Tuesday 11 May 2021

Dear parents/carers

There have been a number of small but important changes recently which are detailed in the updates below.

COVID TESTING

With community transmission of the virus at a low level, health boards across Wales are keen to ensure that all possible cases are dealt with effectively. This will help to prevent another rise in cases as restrictions ease. To support this effort, testing is now available for anyone experiencing a wider range of symptoms than was previously the case. The image below shows the variety of symptoms for which it is now advised anyone seek a test.

COVID-19 TESTING FOR A WIDER RANGE OF SYMPTOMS

People in Gwent should arrange a free COVID-19 PCR test by calling **119** or **0300 3031 222** if they experience any of the following:



Change in
taste or
smell



High
temperature



Excessive
tiredness



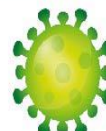
Shortness
of breath



Change of
symptoms
since your
last test



New
continuous
cough



Flu like
symptoms



Persistent
headache



Aching
muscles



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board



Gwent Test, Trace, Protect Service
Coordination Unit
Prawf Gwent, Olrhain, Gwasanaeth Amddiffyn
Uned Cydlynu

In order to protect our community and to help school to remain open, we are also advising that any child or family member experiencing any of the above symptoms should be tested. It is clearly better to do this and reduce the risk of passing on the virus than to assume 'it is just a cold'. With this in mind, if your child has any of the above symptoms please arrange for them to be tested and wait for the result before sending them to school.

Please remember that if you or a member of your household has symptoms and is being tested, then all household members should remain at home until the result is known. Most test results are being reported very swiftly now and you should probably have the answer within 24 hours.

TRIPS AND VISITORS

The Welsh Government (WG) has recently confirmed that pupils may now take part in educational visits where these can be conducted safely and within the general restrictions. We are currently trialling a small number of group visits e.g. to Pontypool Park, which come within the general consent provided by parents for local visits.

Together we live learn and value

Later this term we are looking to restart our Coastal School activities which last ran during the autumn term of this school year. Once again we have sought advice from the local authority health and safety team to ensure that our arrangements include the necessary measures to manage pupil's safety appropriately.

A small number of visitors are also being allowed in to school where they provide valuable enrichment activities that support pupil's learning, for example about a specific part of the topic they are working on. In these instances we are ensuring that visitors follow the same protocols as staff to reduce risks.

I am sure you will agree that these activities play a key role in making the school experience an exciting and dynamic one for pupils. We will continue to offer these opportunities whenever we can do so safely.

WORKING TOGETHER

The last 14 months have undoubtedly presented many challenges. We have all had to change the way we live and work to adapt to the necessary restrictions. This has often meant missing out on things we enjoy and often took for granted.

But, there have been some unique positives too. For example, from a school point of view we have been enormously impressed and grateful for the hard work and effort so many parents and carers have put into helping children to continue learning during periods of school closure. We know that support from home is always a benefit to your child's progress and recent experience has underlined this clearly. It is really heartening to see that despite the disruption to school life, the extra support from parents/carers has helped many children to make progress, for instance with developing their reading skills during this time.

We are very keen to sustain the strong sense of partnership between home and school that has been so evident in the last year. Our staff massively value the support you provide for children and the enormous benefit this provides for them.

Next term, we will be sharing plans to build on our teamwork in the future. In the meantime, all classes have uploaded a simple topic overview with an outline of the learning children are currently involved in so that you can feel up-to-date with what they are doing in school. As well as providing a little information, this overview may just help to open up a question or start a chat at home about what your child is learning. I know from my own experience that sometimes this can be like pulling teeth so I hope that you find this useful!

You can access the overview for your child's class at <https://www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk/parent-zone/class-topics/>

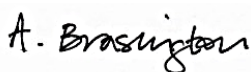
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON UPDATE

As you will be aware, the WG is reducing specific restrictions as case rates remain low. Where the operational guidance for schools has changed, we have updated our procedures accordingly. At present there has been no change to restrictions on the movement of staff between bubbles. As a result, our current arrangements for Wednesday afternoons will remain in place during the remaining weeks of this half term. This means that children will need to be picked up at 12.30/12.40 from their usual collection point each Wednesday afternoon.

I remain hopeful that conditions will mean that we will be able to return to 'normal' next half term. If the situation changes sooner then I will confirm the position as soon as it is known.

I should like to thank all parents once again for your support with these arrangements.

Kind regards,



Mr A Brasington