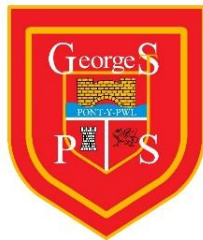


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YSGOL GYNRADD A MEITHRIN STRYD SIORS GEORGE STREET PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Friday 02 July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

It is the end of another eventful, high-energy week in school. It has been a pleasure to engage with so many parents/carers through our scheduled meetings which have been very well attended. Children have been enjoying their year-group sports day activities, making further trips to the beach and working together on activities leading towards the end of term.

MEET THE TEAM / EARLY YEARS MEETINGS

Many thanks to everyone who has attended one of our Early Years meetings in school this week or any of our virtual Meet the Team events that have been held over the last few evenings.

It is very important to us that as parents/carers you are actively engaged as partners in the work of our school. We share the same aspirations for the wellbeing and development of your child(ren) and know that this is most powerfully realised when parents and staff work well together to support one another. It was very encouraging then to see so many parents/carers in person and online showing a strong interest in building this partnership.

I hope that the meetings were useful to you and that they help you to feel confident about the trust you place in our staff and secure in the knowledge that our team are working consistently to provide a positive experience for your child(ren).

If you were unable to join one of the meetings this week, all year groups have uploaded a video to the school website that covers the information teams shared about routines, expectations, communication etc. A link to these videos was sent by text to all parents/carers earlier this week. You can also access them here: <https://www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk/parent-zone/move-up-day-2021-virtual-meet-the-staff-sessions-microsoft-teams/> I apologise for the sound quality on one or two videos – we are not quite movie standard in terms production just yet so you may need to adjust the volume to maximum at points during your viewing.

You may want to watch the video with your child in the last week of the summer holiday just to remind them about what to expect when they return.

For general information about the school, our prospectus is updated annually and the latest version is available on the school website at: <https://www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk/media/3872/gsp-prospectus-2021-22.pdf>

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS CHANGES – MEETING FOR PARENTS

You are probably aware that a new curriculum for schools in Wales is being developed. At the same time, the Welsh Government is introducing changes to the way that schools support pupils with additional learning needs (ALN). These changes are being phased in gradually and we have been altering our practice to be in step with the new approaches.

We will be holding a virtual meeting next week to outline these changes for parents/carers and to answer any general queries you may have. This meeting will take place between **6.00-7.00 next Wednesday 7th July** using Microsoft Teams. A link to the meeting will be sent by text to all parents next week.

Please note that the aim of this meeting is to share general information about these changes with interested parents/carers. It will not be possible to discuss individual pupils during the meeting.

YOUR VIEWS WANTED - HOME LEARNING SURVEY

I wrote earlier this term about our plan to improve the way we work with you as parents/carers to support pupil's learning at home. We know from the recent experiences of lockdown what a hugely valuable role parents/carers play in helping children to make progress in their learning. While none of us want to return to a time of school closure, we would like to build on the strong teamwork that emerged during this time so that children can continue to benefit from close working together.



With this in mind, we are inviting all parents/carers to complete a short survey so that we can gather your views/feelings about home learning. You will receive a text today with a link that will take you straight to the survey. Alternatively, you can access it here:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ug4_TzS3ZEGUCRtgHRR5k4z7jKSIZzIGqhrbmYIw6yZURUIDREJaRUw4OFpZMk5FVWREJNUFIYRS4u

It is quick and simple to complete and we would really value your views and any comments you wish to make so that we can take these into account in future plans.

The survey will stay open until the end of Thursday 8th July. This will provide an opportunity for us to consider the information you provide before the end of term.

CASHLESS PAYMENT SYSTEM DELAY

We have been notified today that the planned roll-out of the new cashless payment system that is being introduced by the local authority has been slightly delayed. I understand that this is because of a technical issue which the provider is seeking to resolve as quickly as possible. For this reason we will not be sending out the individual letters for registration today. Once we know more we will provide an update.

COVID UPDATE – TESTING & MASK WEARING

Finally, a very clear reminder that coronavirus is still with us. While the vaccine roll-out is impacting positively, infection rates are currently increasing and a number of schools locally have been closed to year groups because of recent cases.

Where children show symptoms (including a new, persistent cough, high temperature or loss of taste/smell) then they need to visit a testing centre to complete a PCR test. Many parents are using lateral flow tests to check children for symptoms – these tests are not suitable for this purpose and a negative result does not indicate that a child is clear of infection. To keep everyone safe and to maintain the smooth running of school it is essential that any child with a cough or high temperature be tested at a testing centre. All siblings and other family members should remain at home until a negative test result is received.

I wish to appeal again to all parents/carers to continue wearing masks when dropping off or collecting children. Unfortunately, we have seen a notable decrease in the numbers of parents/carers wearing masks and socially distancing. I appreciate that everyone is weary of the restrictions and that in many respects the situation has improved considerably. However, this is not the time to feel emboldened. Coronavirus continues to spread. If we are to make further progress then our consistent efforts to reduce its opportunity to keep spreading are needed as much now as ever.

Kind regards,

A. Brasington

Mr A Brasington

Together we live learn and value