



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

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Wednesday 14 July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of term I want to thank all members of our school community for the tremendous support you have shown during this extremely challenging year. Best wishes also to our Year 6 pupils who will be moving to their new schools in September. I hope that everyone can enjoy a pleasant break over the summer. We look forward to welcoming you back in September.

### SCHOOL ORGANISATION FOR SEPTEMBER

You may be aware that the WG has announced a number of changes that it is intended will alter the way that schools in Wales will operate in September. The aim of these changes is to bring school life in the new term a little closer to 'normal'.

These changes include that;

- contact groups (bubbles) will not play a role in schools from the start of the autumn term
- there will no longer be a requirement for staff in primary schools to wear face coverings

However, it is very important to note that the updated operational guidance for schools still identifies 'minimising close interactions between learners and maintaining social distancing' as key measures in controlling the spread of infection.

We are waiting for WG to publish details of the 'Local Covid-19 Infection Control Decision Framework' at the start of the autumn term. This will crucially influence how schools manage future cases of infection.

We are working closely with the LA to prepare for changes. We are also very mindful that the situation remains fluid and that the position could change for the better or for the worse before the start of next school year.

### Preventative Measures

It will remain necessary for us to have in place measures to reduce risk in September. We ask for your full support in implementing these. Precise details of measures will be included in our updated risk assessment that will be placed on our website before pupils return in September. The following will remain in place:

- Any staff member or pupil who has any of the three cardinal symptoms of COVID-19 – new persistent cough, fever and/or loss of taste or smell - must not attend the school but must remain home and self-isolate, arrange a COVID-19 test and notify the school of this
- Pupils, staff and other adults must not come to school if they:
  - have COVID-19 symptoms
  - have tested positive for COVID-19
  - live with someone who has COVID-19 symptoms
  - live with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19
  - have been identified as a contact of a positive case in the last 10 days
- Anyone developing COVID-19 symptoms during the school day will be sent home immediately

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- We expect pupils and staff to continue to wash or sanitise their hands on a regular basis. This includes when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks and before and after eating. Regular and thorough hand cleaning is going to be needed for the foreseeable future.
- We will continue to encourage good respiratory hygiene by promoting the **'catch it, bin it, kill it, wash your hands'** approach
- Continued high levels of cleaning and sanitising of equipment and rooms
- Members of our school community will be expected where possible to maintain social distancing
- The school will continue to ensure there is sufficient ventilation

## The School Day

During the last year we have organised our school in a different way to maximise the safety of the whole school community. A number of these organisational arrangements will stay in place as they have worked very efficiently and have benefitted pupils and staff.

- For this reason, we will continue to operate extended lunch sittings with separate break and play times for different year groups.
- We also ask that pupils continue to attend school suitably dressed for PE/Forest School on appropriate days.

However, there will no longer be a staggered start to the school day. All pupils (other than those attending breakfast club or afternoon nursery) will start school at 9.00am.

Year groups will continue to use specific entrances and a member of staff from each year group will be on duty at each gate between 8.50am-9.00am to welcome pupils. This has been highly effective this year in enabling a calm and efficient start to the school day.

We will continue with a short stagger at the end of the day in some classes simply to avoid large numbers of children (100+) exiting school from one entrance at the same time. Please note, the drop-off zone will remain closed to vehicles.

These arrangements are summarised below. Please note that both Years 3&4 will now use the drop-off zone and ramp. Years 5&6 will access via the front steps.

	Entrance/Exit	Start	Finish
<b>AM Nursery</b>	Conway Road	9.00	11.30
<b>PM Nursery</b>	Conway Road	12.45	3.15
<b>Reception</b>	Conway Road	9.00	3.05
<b>Year 1</b>	School Lane / Playground	9.00	3.15
<b>Year 2</b>	School Lane / Playground	9.00	3.15
<b>Year 3</b>	Drop off zone / George St ramp	9.00	3.15
<b>Year 4</b>	Drop off zone / George St ramp	9.00	3.10
<b>Year 5</b>	George St steps	9.00	3.15
<b>Year 6</b>	George St steps	9.00	3.10

## TERM DATES & PLATINUM JUBILEE

An updated school calendar for 2021-22 has been uploaded to the school website. This provides term/holiday dates for the year with details of INSET days. The additional bank holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee takes place during the May half term. Schools are able to organise one additional day of holiday outside the half term. This will take place in George Street on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (May bank holiday weekend).

The autumn term for pupils will begin on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September**.

## NON-UNIFORM FRIDAY

Finally, the last day of this year will be a non-uniform Friday. Children are invited to come to school dressed as they wish.

Kind regards,

*A. Brasington*

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