



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

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Thursday 02 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We are looking forward to welcoming children at the start of the new school year. We are also very much hoping that this school year will prove more straight forward for everyone. However, it remains clear that to provide the greatest chance of this happening we will need to continue with key safety measures. With this in mind, we have updated our risk assessment to take account of new guidance. This is available on the school website at: <https://www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk/media/3883/covid-19-gsp-risk-assessment-2-september-2021.pdf>

The best way we can maintain 'normal' operation is by keeping Covid-19 out of our school. Anyone with symptoms (new persistent cough, high temperature and/or loss of taste or smell) should not attend school and should self-isolate, arrange a PCR test and notify the school of this. It is vitally important for the wider benefit of everyone we all take a cautious approach.

As mentioned in my final letter of last term, contact groups will not be used this autumn. New guidance from WVG means that **under-18s (i.e. all primary pupils) and all adults who are fully vaccinated** are now not required to self-isolate as a contact and can attend school. However, the local contact tracing team will follow up with individuals identified as close contacts to advise on taking a PCR test on day 2 and day 8. These tests help break the chain of transmission, particularly in household settings.

Any adults who have not been fully vaccinated must not come to school if they:

- live with someone who has Covid-19 symptoms
- live with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19
- have been told to self-isolate by the contact tracing service

Anyone developing Covid-19 symptoms during the school day will be sent home immediately to self-isolate and arrange a PCR test.

Preventative Measures

The following measures will remain in place this term:

- 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

The following organisational arrangements will also stay in place as they have worked very efficiently and have benefitted pupils and staff.

- 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 in enabling a calm and efficient start to the school day.

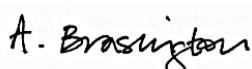
We will continue with a brief stagger at the end of the day in some classes simply to avoid large numbers of children (100+) exiting school from one entrance at the same time. Please note, the drop-off zone will remain closed to vehicles.

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

Breakfast club will run from Monday 6th September, starting at 8.30. Children should gather in the drop-off zone and a member of staff will admit them a year group at a time.

Kind regards,



Mr A Brasington