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

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Friday 17 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We have come to the end of another eventful week. We would like to welcome all new children and families. Our nursery pupils are now in school, enjoying new experiences and a new environment – they have settled in well. It has been lovely to, once again, be able to offer swimming lessons to our Year 5 pupils. Children in Caerdydd enjoyed their first session this week. We are also fortunate to be able to begin our coastal school sessions next week with children from Penfro, let's cross our fingers for sunshine.

### YEAR 6 TRANSITION VISIT TO WEST MON

I am pleased to confirm that our Year 6 pupils will have the opportunity to participate in a transition visit to West Monmouth School on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Pupils will travel by coach, leaving at 9.15 and will be accompanied by our staff. After a morning of activities, coaches will leave West Mon at 12.50. All pupils will need to wear a face covering for the journey. Lunch will be provided for pupils during their time at West Mon.

### LONDON MARATHON – SUPPORT MRS RAPLH!

If you can cast your mind back far enough to recall a time before the pandemic, you may remember that in 2018/19 we began fundraising with Mrs Ralph who gained a place to support Nerve Tumours UK by running in the 2019 London Marathon.



Obviously the event didn't take place in 2019 or in 2020. However, the much-delayed London Marathon is now scheduled to go ahead on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October this year and Mrs Ralph will be at the start ready to complete her journey.

In order to support Mrs Ralph's huge personal effort we will be holding a Dress Blue for Sue day on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September, just ahead of the marathon weekend. We are asking all children/families to donate £1.00 to help Mrs Ralph to reach her £2,000 fundraising target. This will be the third time that Mrs Ralph has gone through the gruelling process of preparing for the event (which was initially rescheduled for October 2020) and I hope that everyone will wear blue to school to show our moral support and make a contribution to recognise Mrs Ralph's hard work.

Nerve Tumours UK is a charity that supports the 25,000 people in the UK who are affected by NFI (neurofibromatosis). Funds raised for this appeal will help support children and families with the condition and fund ongoing research.

### NEW SEESAW CODES

All parents/carers of pupils in Years 1-6 will have received a text with a new Seesaw code to access your child's Seesaw account. Please can you take a few minutes to access your child's account and to post a simple message just to check that the system is working correctly. Please let your child's class teacher know if you experience any problems so that we can help to iron these out. We will be using Seesaw to support home learning this term and we are keen to ensure that the process runs smoothly.



Seesaw

*Together we live learn and value*

## **CASHLESS PAYMENTS – ALL PUPILS NEED TO BE REGISTERED**

More letters about the cashless payment system are being sent to specific families today who still need to register for the system. As mentioned previously, this is the only payment system that school has in use and it is needed for school trips as well as for lunches. With trips now being planned for this term it is essential that all families are signed up for these to go ahead. If we are not able to collect contributions through the cashless system, for instance to meet travel costs or for theatre tickets etc, then we will not be able to offer these activities.

## **FLU IMMUNISATIONS 30/09**

Information has been sent home this week about the planned nasal flu immunisations that will be taking place in school on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September. This information contains a consent form that needs to be returned to school ASAP indicating whether or not you wish your child to be immunised. Please return this form even if you do not want your child to receive the vaccine.

The flu vaccine, which is given as a nasal spray, is available in school to all children from Reception to Year 6. Further information about the use of the vaccine and how it is administered is available on the Wales NHS website at <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/flu vaccine/about/>. This includes a very useful child-friendly video that explains what the vaccine does and how it helps to protect against infection.

## **NURSERY PLACES FOR 2022**

Please be aware that the deadline for applications for those wishing to secure a place in our Nursery for September 2022 is the 1<sup>st</sup> October this year. Information about how to apply, including the form that needs completing, is available on the Torfaen website at

<https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/EducationLearning/SchoolsColleges/School-Admissions/SchoolAdmissions-Nursery/School-Admissions-Nursery-Schools.aspx>

You can also speak with a member of the school admissions team by ringing 01495 766915.

## **BREAKFAST CLUB**

A brief reminder that all children attending breakfast club should arrive at the drop-off zone for 8.30. Staff are on duty between 8.30-8.35 to admit pupils. Please do not arrive after this time.

## **COVID UPDATE – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

We currently have several members of staff away from school at present following positive test results. This has fortunately had no impact to date on pupil attendance but obviously places our remaining staff team under additional strain. For the continuing smooth operation of our school it is vital that all families assist us by keeping strictly to the published guidance in order to minimise risk.

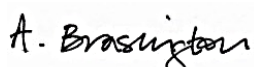
In particular, it is essential that anyone with symptoms obtain a PCR test as soon as possible. A lateral flow test is not suitable for this purpose. Please book a PCR test and visit a testing centre. It is very simple to arrange and quick to complete.

Please note that in addition to a high temperature / new, persistent cough and loss/change in taste/smell, very common symptoms for those who have been double jabbed (and who may not have any of the above) include sneezing, a runny nose and headaches. If in any doubt, please get a test.

Where a household member has symptoms or tests positive it is also vital that all other members of the household have a PCR test on day 2 and day 8 regardless of whether or not they have symptoms.

Can I also please remind everyone that, in line with our existing risk assessment, parents/carers are not permitted on school site without a prior appointment. Thank you.

Kind regards,



Mr A Brasington