



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

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Friday 3 December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

REPORTING ABSENCE

A reminder for all parents/carers of the need to contact school and explain your child's absence on the first day of any illness. As a school we have a legal requirement to maintain accurate registers of attendance. Our office team are extremely diligent in making a first-day response for all unexplained absence so that this is recorded correctly. Please help us to use time efficiently by reporting absence so that our staff do not need to chase up the reason that your child is not in school. If you cannot speak with a member of our office team when you call you are able to leave a voice message or to email office.georgestreetprimary@torfaen.gov.uk.

Can I also ask all parents/carers of pupils who test positive for Covid-19 to make the school aware of this. This helps us to make others aware of cases and to have an accurate picture of infection within our school community.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

Following this week's highly enjoyable Elf Day, I can now advise of our arrangements for Christmas 'performances' before the end of term.

KEY STAGE 2

While every year group in school has been significantly affected this term by levels of infection, this has peaked in classes and year groups at different points. The impact on pupil and staff absence this half term has been most acute in key stage 2. Over recent weeks, clusters of infection have severely hampered efforts to prepare children in **Years 3&4** for a show. As a result we have taken the decision that Years 3&4 will not present a Christmas performance this year.



At this point in time, **Years 5&6** are still planning to make a recording of their Christingle. This will be filmed in school during the final week of term and shared with parents via the school's Youtube channel. Given the current cluster of cases in Year 5 however, it is possible that this aim may move beyond reach.

FOUNDATION PHASE



Year 2 pupils are in the process of completing their filming of Cinderella Rockerfella and have arranged screenings for parents on the morning (10.00) and afternoon (2.00) of Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th December in the school hall. One parent is invited to attend for each child. It is essential that we limit attendance this way to enable physical distancing during the screening.

Year 1 will record pupils for a Nativity film that will be hosted on the school's Youtube channel. The link to this film will be shared with parent/carers only via

your child's Seesaw account.

EARLY YEARS

Children in **Nursery** and **Reception** will perform their Wriggly Nativity in the school hall at 10.30 and 2.00 on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th December. One parent is invited to attend for each child.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ANYONE ATTENDING A PERFORMANCE

In order to meet our risk assessment, all parents/carers attending in-person events are required to observe the following requirements.

- Only one adult to attend for your child.
- All attendees will be required to show either;
 - a) an up-to-date Covid pass (via your phone) or
 - b) a text confirming a negative lateral flow test completed in the last 24 hours and reported to the NHS online testing portal.
- To sign in on arrival and out at departure providing a contact number for Test and Trace.
- To wear a face covering throughout the performance

Anyone who is unable to meet these requirements will not be admitted. I appreciate that these rules are strict, but I trust that parents/carers will appreciate the need to respect these measures to ensure that these events can take place safely.

Parents/carers are advised that they may record their child's performance for their own use. Recordings are not to be shared via social media or internet. Any parent/carer sharing a recording without the consent/approval of others is liable as the data controller.

COLLECTING PUPILS BY CAR



I am very concerned by the increasing number of parents/carers who are remaining in their cars at collection time and expecting pupils to cross the road towards them. This is not acceptable as it places pupils at significant risk on a busy road with often limited visibility. Other than in exceptional circumstances, it is not the responsibility of school staff to escort pupils across the road to waiting parents/carers. I have instructed staff not to do this as it does not remove children from the danger.

The only safe point for children or adults to cross the road is at the patrolled crossing. We give this message consistently in school and most children understand how the crossing protects them. Please do not encourage or expect your child to cross the road away from the crossing – this places them in danger that can be avoided.

FOOTBALL SUCCESS

Congratulations again to our fantastic football team who battled their way through competition in the second phase of the EFL Kids Cup. The team stuck doggedly to their task, putting in a superb performance. They were ultimately pipped by a 2:1 defeat in the semi-final. The end of a great run and a proud moment for the boys and for our whole school. Da iawn!



DECEMBER PLAY CAMP

All parents/carers have been sent a text this week with a link to information about the Christmas Play and Well-being Camp run by Torfaen Play that is being held in school between Monday 20th and Wednesday 22nd December. This information is also available on the home page of our school website at www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk. Parents/carers wishing to book places for children at the camp can do so using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9c8kbm>

END OF TERM

The final day of this school term is Friday 17th December. School will close at 1.30 on this day to allow for cleaning and reorganisation before the play camp starts on Monday 20th. Pupils will be able to have lunch as normal on this day. Afternoon Nursery pupils are invited to join the morning Nursery session (9.00-11.45).

Kind regards

Mr A Brasington