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

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Friday 14 January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I am pleased to say that we have enjoyed a very positive start to the new term. Thankfully, attendance has been particularly good in this first full week - in many year groups reaching a level that we have not seen since last September. This is very good news and, whilst we take nothing for granted, it is great to see classes close to full strength as children get stuck into the new term. I have asked our School Council to decide on a theme for a non-uniform day next Friday as this is something we definitely have cause to cheer about! I am also delighted to report that nearly all of our staff team have returned fit and recharged. Our best wishes are with those who are still recovering and who we hope to see back in school once they are healthy and ready to return.

You will be aware that the alert level is gradually reducing at present. This is another encouraging sign and I know that we are all hopeful that further progress will follow. We cannot afford to be complacent however and I am very grateful for the responsible approach our community has shown in sticking with guidelines to help address the challenge we face. Please do continue to act cautiously and to help us by keeping the school informed of any direct impact in your family. It is important that we are aware of any infection among pupils so that we can play our role in helping to reduce the spread of the virus effectively.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

I strongly request that all parents/carers who are dropping off or collecting children by car do so with extreme care. There have been alarming incidents this week and just before the Christmas break when cars have mounted the kerb in order to pass other vehicles 'blocking' the road. On two occasions cars have narrowly missed hitting children walking with parents to and from school. At no point is it acceptable for cars to be driven over the kerb.

The Highway Code has recently been amended to make it clear that **drivers are required to give priority to the safety of pedestrians**, including stopping to allow them to pass safely. **Not to do so is an offence.** All parents/carers using cars could help with this by:

- Not double-parking – this only encourages other drivers to pull around vehicles or to reverse, both of which are more likely to cause an accident. At one point this week several children attending breakfast club did not arrive until after service had finished because an abandoned, parked car stopped the movement of all traffic. While we made alternative arrangements to make sure that the affected children were fed, not double-parking would prevent this need arising.
- Parking further from school and walking a short way to drop/off or collect children.

Kind regards

Mr A Brasington

Together we live learn and value