

# Arrangements for Return to School in September

## Information for Parents and Carers (Updated since July)



### START DATES

- Following 2 planning days for all staff, **Year 1 to Year 6 will start on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.**
- **Reception** induction will begin on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September** with all Reception in full time by Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> September. (More details have been sent out)
- **Nursery** induction will begin on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September** with all Nursery in for full sessions by Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> September (More details have been sent out)

### BEFORE SENDING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL.....

In order to avoid spread of the virus, it is essential that all families follow the guidelines on self-isolation.

*Anybody unwell with symptoms of COVID-19 or living with someone who does, to stay at home.*

*Symptoms are:*

- *Continuous cough;*
- *High temperature;*
- *Loss of / change in taste or smell*

*No pupils / staff to attend school if they:*

- *Feel unwell, have any of the above symptoms or have tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 10 days;*
- *Live in a household with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 14 days*

### STAGGERED START AND END TO THE DAY

We will continue the routine for drop off and collection as we have done for the last three weeks. Please do stagger your arrival where possible and stick to the times slots to ensure we can maintain safe distances. No children will be marked late until registers close at 9.15.

Start for all	End**
8.45 – 9.00	3.00 - 3.10 (Nur & Rec) 3.05 - School Bus 3.10 - 3.20 (Y1 to Y6)

\*\* Please note, the slight changes in time are due to a reduced lunch break (See below). There is no reduction in learning time.

We will run the one way system for parents exactly as we are now as this seems to have worked well. There will continue to be **no drop off** from cars in the layby. It will be essential for parents to be vigilant with their children's safety as the bus will resume operation in September (details still to be confirmed).

### **STAGGERED BREAKS & LUNCH / WORSHIP**

All playtimes and lunch breaks will be staggered and the children will play within zones. In order to be able to have enough staff to stagger lunches, we are reducing the lunch time by 15 minutes. For this reason the length of the day will be temporarily reduced as in the table above. There will be no collective worship. Classes will hold class worships in their classroom/the outdoor classroom. We also intend to use Microsoft Teams to enable a form of whole school worship and this is something we hope to develop in the coming weeks.

### **LUNCH PROVISION**

In order to keep children in their contact groups (classes), most children will be eating lunch in their classes (Year 2 to Year 6). For this reason we will not be offering hot lunches. We hope to be able to review this once we are up and running but initially the children can either bring a packed lunch or opt for a grab bag. The grab bag option will include all pupils – infants too. Reception and Year 1 pupils will eat their lunch in the hall due to the limited numbers of tables in these classrooms.

### **WHAT TO BRING TO SCHOOL**

As it states in the guidance, children should only bring to school what they need for that day. We will provide all necessary resources etc. Therefore they should **not** bring in pencil cases, books, toys etc. We will resume the use of lockers from Y1 to Y6 but everything must fit in the locker, including their lunch and coat so please keep bags small. Please **do not** send in PE kits. (See info on PE below) Please send in a water bottle which must be clearly labelled. Also ensure all belongings are labelled as it is more important than ever that we can avoid lots of lost property in the school. Please be aware that any unlabeled bottles or snack pots found will be thrown away to avoid any chance of cross contamination.

### **UNIFORM AND PE KIT**

We will expect full uniform. However, we are allowing a 2 week grace period to allow everyone to buy branded uniform from school if required. The uniform guidance is on the website under key documents. Please ensure your child is in uniform ASAP but no later than the 14th Sep. Please ensure your child has a waterproof coat (with a hood) every day. As you will know, outdoors is the safest place to be and we will be trying to ensure the children can go outside for breaks and for outdoor learning whenever possible. We intend to give each class a designated PE day when they can come to school in PE kit. We will inform you of this in the next few weeks. In the meantime, you may wish to purchase plain black joggers which is the expected winter PE kit.

## **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

The guidelines state that we should:

*'Minimise contact between individuals wherever possible.'..... 'It is likely that for younger learners the emphasis will be on separating groups, and for older learners it will be on social distancing. For learners old enough, they should be supported to maintain distance and not touch staff where possible.*

With 30 in a class, it is not possible to maintain the 2m distancing rule. What is more important for us in primary schools is to minimise the contact wherever possible and to keep our classes (contact groups) separate from others. Staff will be working hard to remind children and continue to develop good habits in terms of keeping a distance when they can and cleansing their hands regularly.

The rules around adults maintaining a 2m distance still applies and I will expect staff, parents and visitors to adhere to this. Please move swiftly from the playground, layby and surrounding area at drop off and collection times without stopping to chat.

Please continue to communicate with school via email or telephone as parents will not be permitted inside the building.

## **MASKS AND PPE**

Following the guidance that came out at the end of August, pupils will **not** be required to wear masks. If you choose to send your child into school with a mask, please note that staff members will not be held responsible for the child's correct use of the mask. Staff have been instructed that under no circumstances will they touch a child's mask.

Staff and visitors **will be** asked to wear masks in communal areas and those areas inside the building where social distancing cannot be guaranteed.

Where needed, staff will also wear full PPE – e.g. if someone is taken ill.

## **TRAVEL ABROAD**

As you know, we do not authorise holidays during term time. If you do decide to go on holiday in the coming months, please be mindful of the government's rules on quarantine and self-isolation on return from certain countries. We do have pupils and staff who are at increased risk and I ask that you act both responsibly and morally on this situation.

If you have arrived back in Wales recently from any of the countries on the government's list then please make sure you quarantine for 14 days at home. The list is constantly under review by the Welsh Government. <https://gov.wales/exemptions-self-isolation-coronavirus-covid-19-html>

### **BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB, CLUBS AND EXTRA PROVISION**

Given the guidelines around ventilation, 2m distancing (still in place for adults) and isolation rooms, a number of spaces within the school building have become unusable and others have had to be repurposed. This is putting increasing pressure on us to operate with reduced space at a time when we could actually do with more space. There are also issues around the children from different contact groups mixing within the clubs.

As a result, we are unable to accommodate the provision provided by Deb's Out of School clubs at present. I do understand the need for this provision for working parents, however at present, all our energies are being put into ensuring the children come back and resume their face to face learning. I will be meeting Deb Eynon next week to see if we can come to a manageable and safe solution as soon as we can.

For the same reasons, we will not be holding peripatetic music lessons or staff led clubs from September. This will be reviewed at half term. There may be an option for online music lessons and we will send out further information when we can. Visits from specialist teachers, needed for pupils with additional needs **will** be permitted to take place (with relevant precautions).

### **CLEANING**

We already have enhanced cleaning routines in place and the staff helped with this enormously during the weeks in July. With full classes and the need for staff to be working with children, this system is not sustainable. In order to ensure high standards of cleanliness are maintained, particularly around hot spots such as toilets, sinks, door handles etc. We intend to have an on-site cleaner available for key parts of the school day.