

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Thursday 4th June 2020

Planned School Reopening

We hope you are continuing to keep safe and well during these unprecedented times.

The Minister for Education announced yesterday that pupils in Wales will be able to return to schools from the 29th of June, with the term being extended to the 27th of July. As a result of the extension of the summer term, the autumn half term break will be extended to two weeks instead of one. At the moment we have not been informed which week this will be but will let you know as soon as we are given this information.

Further guidance is due out from Welsh Government in the coming weeks, however, I want to reassure you that we are working closely with the local authority and with our family of other local schools to develop a consistent and safe approach to welcoming back your children.

Our priority has always been the safety of our pupils and staff and this will not change going forward. Preparations have already begun in earnest around operational considerations for our school. The Minister has indicated a maximum of one third of pupils will be able to return at any one time, however, we want to be clear that **the number of pupils attending our school will be limited to what both the local authority and we consider to be safe.** We will of course share further details with you over the coming weeks.

This Vale wide approach to welcoming pupils back on a limited basis gives us an opportunity for all children to have face to face interaction within limited numbers with their teachers, support staff, LSAs and friends in school settings which will have been significantly adapted with e.g. one way systems, hand washing and social distancing. This means that children will not be able to attend school every day or on a regular basis during this period.

It is a valuable opportunity for pupils to check in and catch up over the last few weeks of the term, which will be important to make sure pupils, families, teachers and school staff alike are mentally, emotionally and practically ready for what will be the 'new normal' in September. We do not yet know what this will look like or how long it will last, but we will do everything we can to support your children to adapt.

I would also like to emphasise that this plan also ensures that **parents will not be sanctioned for not taking up this offer** due to any safety concerns that they may have - attendance will be entirely voluntary.

Our online/distance learning provision will continue for all pupils, regardless of whether they are able to join us or not at any given time over the four week period.

It would be helpful for us in terms of planning if you would let us know if you intend sending your children into school during the last weeks of term. Can I therefore ask you to complete this very short survey by Friday 12th June: <https://www.valelearning.com/reopening>

We appreciate that these remain worrying times for us all. Please, please do not judge other parents in our school family for their decisions about whether or not their children return to school. Everybody's circumstances are different and we all have different thoughts about what is best for our own families at this time. What one family decides may not be the same as you, or appropriate for your own situation. It is hard enough without us passing judgment on others for reaching a different decision.

Whilst we work hard to plan the way forward in these unprecedented and challenging times for the profession, we politely request that you refrain from asking the school any questions at present. We only received the information yesterday and are still waiting for the official guidance from Welsh government which is due next week. As soon as we have a plan in place, we will of course share it with you.

Lastly, our staff have been working tirelessly to ensure provision has been available during this difficult time and we will continue to act in the best interests of your children as we move forward, together. Thank you for your patience and understanding and for all you have done at home in what has been the most challenging of times.

We wish you all the best and look forward to welcoming back pupils in the coming months!

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett
Head Teacher



Sarah Jenkins Welch
Chair of Governors