

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

10th July 2020

Great news about September!

I was relieved to hear the minister's announcement that at present, the plan is for all children to return in September with a 2 week lead in period. We all know the importance of the children being in school for face to face learning with their teachers and support staff. In addition the benefits of socialising and playing with their peers is so important to their mental and physical well-being. Please ignore the negative media portrayal of teachers - we want the children back in full time as much as you do!

As usual, we were not informed of the decision ahead of Kirsty Williams' announcement via social media and The Welsh Government have stated that the guidance for full reopening will be released next week. Therefore, until then, I am unable to give you details as to exactly how the first 2 weeks and the term will look but I will definitely get something out to you before we finish for the summer next Friday. Rest assured, health and safety will always be mine and the governors' primary concern.

A few parents have suggested teachers staying with their cohort for September. Whilst some schools may opt for this approach, for us it is not practical to move teachers up with children for a number of reasons – however, I do not believe this to be an issue for our pupils. Our plan is for Nursery and Reception pupils to have some form of induction and staggered intake in September (as we usually do). Where possible, we have moved some of the support staff with the children into Y1, 2 and 3. By now, the older children are familiar with all staff given that we are a small school. Well-being is always top of our agenda and we will ensure the children have a smooth transition into their new classes. Please remember that we can never guarantee anything 100% as situations arise which can impact on staffing arrangements and never more so than the current period. However, at the moment the plan is as follows:

Year Group	Teacher/s	Support Staff
Nursery	Mrs Bayliss	Mrs Weber / Mrs McFarlane
Reception	Mrs Lewis	Mrs Harris/Mrs Miller
Year 1	Mrs Day / Mr Walters	Mrs Fleet
Year 2	Mrs Bounds	Mrs Saunders
Year 3	Miss Frangoulis	Mrs Brown (temporarily)
Year 4	Miss Bush	
Year 5	Mrs Owen / Mr Mason	
Year 6	Mr McNicol	

Reports

We have now sent out reports from Y6 down to Y2 (email). The remaining reports will go out early next week. Please do return the feedback form which was attached with my initial letter about reports.

ParentPay accounts

Please ensure all accounts are cleared before the end of term.

Uniform update

Although we know we are coming back in full in September, we are still awaiting the guidance which will include advice on uniform. I am still suggesting we wait to see whether any guidance to wear fresh clothes every day remains in place. When we know for sure, we can email out the order form and you will be able to place an order via email. Please don't worry about uniform at present. If necessary, we can have loose arrangements in place for the first few weeks of September until everyone has a chance to sort it out.

PTA appeal

Following my request to not give presents to staff this year, some parents suggested donating to the school instead which is a lovely idea! Many of you may now be aware of the PTA appeal to support the school in purchasing outdoor equipment for the pupils to use in September. A huge thank you to the PTA and to those who have donated so far. The fund is being collected via Local Giving which enables the PTA to also claim the giftaid. Please follow the link to find out more.

<https://localgiving.org/SAMSoutdoorlearning>

Thank you!

As we end week 2 of our **'catch up and check-in'** sessions, I wanted to say thank you for the very positive feedback we have received about the organisation and communication but more importantly about the activities and fun that the children have been having. A huge thank you to the amazing team we have here at St Andrew's – they really have gone above and beyond to ensure the children have fun whilst following very strict protocols and rules in order to keep everyone safe. I know they are exhausted but I also know they will say it is definitely worth it. It really is so rewarding for us to see their smiles as they come in and leave school. We look forward to seeing you all for the last week of term next week!

Have a great weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett
Headteacher