

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday 12th March 2021

The return of KS2

Following announcements today, I can now confirm that **all** KS2 children from Y3 to Y6 will be able to return to school on Monday 15th March. We really are delighted and look forward to the whole school being back together. As I said last week, the updated operational guidance further emphasises the need to keep strict contact groups, including in terms of staff not crossing from one group to another. Whilst this makes perfect sense and we have worked hard to put in place new plans, it places huge pressure on us as a school as so many staff do ordinarily move through different groups. This will especially impact on things such as PPA, staff training, lunchtime supervision and ad-hoc cover to release a teacher e.g. to meet a parent. I hope that with this knowledge, you will be patient with us where needed.

After Easter, some teachers in KS2 will have PPA for a full day per fortnight rather than half a day per week. Some PPA in Foundation Phase will continue to be covered by support staff who are already in that contact group. This along with all other measures and Lateral Flow testing twice weekly for staff (including agency staff) means we are doing everything in our power to minimise risk.

Well-Being Days

Pupil well-being will continue to be a focus as we return to face to face learning for all. A very successful part of this has been the well-being days which will continue from next week. KS2 remain on their days but there will be a few changes to the Foundation Phase days, due to PPA and contact group. Nursery staff struggle to fit PE and outdoor learning in during one session so there will now be 2 days for all of Nursery.

Nur	Monday/Thursday
Rec	Wednesday
Y1	Thursday
Y2	Monday
Y3/Y4	Tuesday
Y5/Y6	Friday

Restrictions

All these remain in place and I am very grateful to everyone for following all our requests. Please remember to inform anyone else who is collecting your child/ren of the arrangements as some grandparents sometimes seem unsure. Please remember the following:

-Staggered start – please don't all turn up at 8.45. The children will not miss anything if coming in 5 or 10 minutes later as we do not start school until 9. We know how keen juniors will be on Monday but if I have concerns, we may have to change to staggering different classes which in my mother's experience in my son's primary school, is very complicated and inconvenient for parents.

-Staggered finish runs from 3.10 until 3.20. Please feel free to come at 3.20 when there is no queue!

-Face coverings are being worn by all staff all day. I do insist that all parents/carers wear a face covering at drop off and pick up (unless you have a medical condition which means you are unable to do so – if so, please let me know so that we do not challenge you on this).

Please continue to observe 2m social distancing at all times in and around the site. If you are allowing your child to enter school without you, please remind them not to run in and that they must not 'overtake' others.

Lunches from Monday

Children from Y2 up will continue to eat their lunch in classrooms. We will return to the system we had in place before Christmas where we alternate hot lunches on a weekly basis. Next week will be the turn of Y4-6. Every day there will also be the option of cheese, ham, tuna baguettes for KS2 or soft roll/sandwiches for the younger children. The hot dinners will follow the menu (with the exception of a Thursday which will be sausage baguette/roll). There will be a hot option for baguettes/rolls every day as follows:

- Monday = Quorn Burger
- Tuesday = Bacon
- Wednesday = BBQ or plain chicken
- Thursday = Sausage
- Friday = Fish Fingers

Due to difficulties with custard and yoghurt being served in bowls in classrooms, the pudding option may not follow the menu. There is always fruit as an alternative.

Uniform

We do understand that the children may have grown and the difficulties around getting hold of new uniform with the restrictions on retail. Therefore, we will continue to be flexible around this until Easter although please do try to comply with uniform as much as possible as this is all part of being in school again. We would like to see everyone in full uniform including shoes (not trainers please) after Easter. Year 6 will be discussing their leavers' hoodies next week. Well-being days will continue to be PE kits with school jumpers. Please contact the office if you wish to purchase any of the school uniform that we stock.

Lent Appeal (repeated message)

The Llandaff Diocese are encouraging all Church in Wales schools to take part in the 21 day Lent challenge. This involves 21 activities aimed at developing wellbeing with a church school twist. We have been asked to focus on 2 main aspects as follows and we are asking for your help:

1. Photography competition called **'Take Notice'** – take a photograph of something beautiful in nature. Write a 'Thank you to God.....' sentence to go with your photograph. Entries can be sent directly to the Diocese via their twitter channel @llandaffed (Don't forget to put the name of the school and your sentence). They will then link the images and sentences into a video prayer for the Diocese. There will be a £10 prize for the winning photograph.
2. Llandaff Diocese are focusing on Food Banks for their Lent offering. In a similar way to our Christmas Appeal, we would like to collect Easter Eggs for the Vale foodbank. If you would like to contribute, please bring in your eggs during the week of 15th March. Thank you.

A reminder that Friday 26th March is an INSET day.

Have a lovely weekend – I really look forward to seeing everyone on Monday morning ☺

Yours faithfully,



Headteacher

