

Return to School September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

After what has been a very unusual few months, we are really looking forward to welcoming all the children back into school next week. Thank you for your support over the last 5 months and for everything you have done to assist your child's learning during this time.

We understand that you might have lots of questions about the return to school so we have produced this information letter to try and answer as many of those questions as we can. Please note that we are following current guidance from Welsh Government, 'Operational Guidance for Schools and Settings from the Autumn Term.' (WG40735)

Return to school plan (also sent previously):

Tuesday 1st September: Staff preparation days, no pupils

Wednesday 2nd September: Staff preparation days, no pupils

	Thurs 3 rd Sept	Fri 4 th	Mon 7 th	Tues 8 th	Wed 9 th	Thurs 10 th	Fri 11 th	Mon 14 th and beyond
Nursery	Grp A*: 9-10 Grp B*: 10.30 – 11.30	Grp A: 9-10 Grp B: 10.30 – 11.30	All N 9-10.30	All N 9-10.30	All N 9-11	All N 9-11	All N 9-11	Normal Nursery times
Reception	8.55 [^] – 12.30	8.55 [^] – 12.30	8.55 [^] – 2pm	Normal School times				
Y1-6	Normal School times	Normal School times	Normal School times	Normal School times	Normal School times	Normal School times	Normal School times	Normal School times

[^]Croeserw start is 8.50am *Details of Nursery Groups (A&B) will be shared by Nursery teachers nearer the time.

Dropping off/Picking up:

Parents are asked to follow signage around the school when dropping off and picking up – the signage and procedures will be very similar if not identical to those used successfully in the last three weeks' 'Check In Catch Up' sessions. Due to the increased numbers, procedures will be under constant review to ensure the safety of pupils, parents and staff.

For the time being, children from Nursery and Reception/Year 1 will enter the school using the Foundation Phase gate to the left of the school. Children from Year 2 – 6 will enter through the kitchen gate to the right of the school.

Children will be taken from the designated gates by the staff and led to their classrooms.

At home time the children will be lined up ready and will be passed to the parent as they arrive at the gates to hopefully avoid any queuing and to ensure social distancing of parents/carers.

Clothing:

Children should wear full uniform. Please make sure every item has your child's name on. On days when children have P.E they can wear jogging bottoms/leggings and trainers with their uniform.

Nursery:

For the first two days Nursery pupils have been split into two groups for them to have a short session with small numbers to get used to the setting and the staff. Nursery Groups A&B will contain a mix of new and returning Nursery pupils so peer support is available to the new intake. Parents have been informed whether their children are group A or B.

Reception & Year 1:

Reception children will have two days transition (Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th) similar to what they would have had in the Summer term.

Week 2 (Week of September 7th) they will finish at 2pm.

Week 3 (Week of 14th September) they will do a full day from 8:55am to 3:20pm.

Year 1 will return full time from Thursday September 3rd with the children having a smaller class in the afternoon when Reception pupils have gone home which will allow them more focus time with their teacher.

Years 2-6: Will return to school full time from Thursday September 3rd.

Please remember the school day is 8:55am – 3:20pm. Any latecomers will have to be dropped off at the school office.

Whole School gatherings:

Whilst in school children will stay with their classes to create a class bubble. Bubbles of children will not be mixing during the day. There will not be any whole school gatherings at the present time. Assemblies will take place in classrooms.

Lunch

As there are to be no whole school gatherings at present, children will eat their lunch in their own classrooms with their teachers before going out to play in their own designated area outside.

For the time being, lunches will be in the form of 'grab bags' for those who wish to purchase one (in place of hot food) to allow for flexibility and to maintain the class bubbles. Please note that families eligible for Free School Meals also need to pay for a Grab Bag if one is required and this will continue to be the case until food payments cease (which we have been informed will be 11th Sept). All Pupils are welcome either to purchase a Grab Bag or to bring a packed lunch from home.

Please can those children bringing in their lunch do so in a lunch box/ thermal lunch bag with their name clearly marked on it.

Water

The water fountains have had to be turned off for the time being, so please can all children bring in their own water bottle with their name clearly marked on it. Jugs of water will be available for those bottles that need refilling.

Water bottles will be sent back home at the end of each day.

Breakfast club

Breakfast club will not run initially as we cannot do so without the pupils breaking their class 'bubbles'. You will be informed when this changes. In the meantime, the school kitchen will supply toast/fruit to classes for those pupils who would like breakfast. We hope that breakfast club will open very soon and will keep you updated.

Equipment:

For the time being we request that the children bring in as little from home as possible. Children will not need any personal equipment such as pencil cases. We will provide everything they need.

As mentioned earlier, no P.E kits are to be brought into school but children may wear jogging bottoms/leggings and trainers to school on their allotted P.E day.

Hygiene:

Handwashing: The importance of handwashing will be a priority for all staff and children.

Handwashing stations have been set up in each classroom as well as the facilities available in the children's bathrooms. Children will be encouraged to wash their hands on entry to school, when they return from breaks, before and after eating and after using the toilet.

Catch it, bin it, kill it: This approach continues to be very important. We have set up 'sniffle stations' in each classroom with tissues and bins for the children to use at any time.

Back to school information:

We normally hold a 'Meet the Teacher' session at the start of each school year to give you all the information you'll need such as PE days, reading days etc and to answer any questions you may have. This will be held virtually this year. All the information you need will be sent home in a pack and you will be able to ask staff any questions you may have via Seesaw (see below).

Visitors and parents:

For the time being, no visitors will be allowed in the school building during the school day unless an appointment has been agreed with the headteacher. Any queries can be dealt with over the phone or via Seesaw.

Seesaw:

As always Seesaw is our best means of two way communicating with parents. Please make sure you check this regularly as important information is sent out this way. You can also use this to ask any questions you may have and a member of staff will reply as soon as possible.

A new Seesaw QR code will be sent out on the first day of term for your child's new class for 2020-2021. Please use this code and not any previously used codes as old accounts are not monitored after the first week of term.

Cleaning:

We will be following the latest guidance on cleaning in a non-healthcare setting using standard products such as detergents and disinfectants. We have a cleaning schedule in place that ensures cleaning is generally enhanced and includes frequently touched surfaces being cleaned more often than normal.

Transport:

We are waiting for confirmation regarding the buses which usually bring children from Heol y Glyn/Cynonville/Dyffryn and will let those families know asap.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

Current guidance states that there is *no need to use PPE when undertaking routine educational activities in classroom/school settings*. However, situations may arise where PPE is required, ie with a suspected COVID-19 case or carrying out intimate care when necessary. Each school setting in the federation is equipped appropriately with PPE if and when it is required.

Illness:

As per the guidance from WG, *any staff member or learner who has possible symptoms of COVID-19 must not attend the school setting but must remain home and self-isolate, arrange a COVID-19 test and notify the school of this.*

If pupils are unwell or unable to attend school for whatever reason then parents should notify the school using the normal procedures we have in place by calling the school.

Please be assured that as a school we are keen to work with you to keep your child and your family as safe as possible.

Best wishes, Mr Rob Appleby (Headteacher) and Mrs Vicky Quinn (Lead Learner)