



Head Teacher:

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'Check in, catch up and prepare for summer and September' – Phased Return to Blaendulais Primary

15th June 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Following the announcement from the Education Minister, Kirsty Williams, regarding the reopening of schools on the 29th June, I would like to take this opportunity to outline our plans for reopening. The main aim for reopening is to give our pupils the opportunity to 'Check-in, catch up and prepare for summer and September'. We are looking forward to seeing our pupils face-to-face again so that we can help them with any wellbeing support and re-engaging them with learning. I think we are all looking forward to returning to 'normal' but for the time being, school is going to look very different.

We have spent the last week planning our approach and it is likely that this planning will be ongoing over the coming weeks and months. We understand that there are a number of concerns over whether or not you decide to send your child into school, and I would like to give you some information so that you can make an informed decision. Hopefully, the following guidance will allow you to make an informed decision.

All guidance is designed to continue to minimise the risk of infection as much as we can. **At this time, WG/NPT are prioritising the return to school for Year 1-6, we propose to follow these guidelines.** As we know, the virus is still prevalent and therefore, the guidance remains we should remain at home as much as possible.

Initially, **pupils will be provided with one 'check in, catch up' day with their teacher** – this day will remain the same for the four weeks. As announced, **the school term has been increased by one week to Friday, 24th July.** Alongside this provision, the school will continue to provide a Childcare 'Hub' for children of Key Workers and pupils identified by NPT for additional support. Parents/Carers are respectfully reminded to only request this facility if there is no other safe/valid childcare option.

1. Early Years

Welsh Government (and NPT) has decided to prioritise Years 1-6 initially. This means that Early Years (Nursery & Reception) will not return before the summer break. The primary reasons for this are the increased possibility of younger children coming together and compromising social distancing. Similarly,



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there is an increased risk of 'intimate care' – changing of soiled clothing etc, thus, again, compromising distancing. Early Years attendance remain under review. The school shall keep you informed of any changes.

2. Y1-6 and LSC Classes

Year 1-6 – Pupils will initially be split into friendship groups within their existing class. The class will be split into five groups i.e. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. **Once allotted a class, your child will remain with that group of pupils for the four-week period, however there is a possibility they may mix with other children during play/lunch times.** Every child is offered a day, regardless of whether or not that day is used. Siblings will be placed together, similarly, we will endeavour to place siblings in different classes on the same day. No more than a fifth of the class will be present on any given day i.e. if there are 25 pupils in the class, 5 will be present on a day. However, we expect this number to fluctuate. Pupils remain with their class teacher/teaching assistant and will stay with their 'bubble' throughout the day.

*LSC pupils – your class teacher will be in touch to arrange your day and discuss transport arrangement.

3. Childcare Provision 'Hub'

Children of Key Workers and pupils identified by NPT have been able to access childcare at Cwmnedd Primary School over the past ten weeks. This provision will transfer to Blaendulais Primary from the 29th June (or 22nd June for existing users). **The Childcare 'Hub' will be based within the Early Years Department and led by Mrs Timmins, Mrs Rudge and Ms Roderick.** The school will continue to send the online 'Form' via text once a week - parents/carers are asked to request childcare only if it is required. **It remains the case - children should be supervised from home if it is safe to do so.**

4. 'Blended Learning'

For the foreseeable future, school across Wales will implement, 'Blended Learning'. This will be a mixture of face-to-face traditional teaching and online teaching via the 'Hwb' platform. If you choose to send your Y1-6 child back before summer, they will experience initial 'Wellbeing' check-ins, followed by re-engagement with their Literacy & Numeracy work. Teachers will then set follow up work to be completed at home during 'online' days. The school will develop the use of the 'Microsoft Teams' platform, so downloading this app to your phone/tablet/laptop will give you a little head start!



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If you choose not to send your child back before summer, they will experience identical 'online' learning, but of course, they will not receive the face-to-face 'check-ins' and classroom learning.

Early Years – your child will continue to develop via 'online' learning for the next four weeks. The Early Years team will be in regular contact to ensure you feel supported and are provided with the best possible advice during this period.

As is the case with pupils, if there is no requirement to be on school site, school staff will be required to work from home for their safety.

5. Health

If your child is showing any of the following symptoms, please do not send them into school:

- New continuous cough;
- Loss of Taste / Smell;
- High temperature.

If your child displays symptoms whilst in school, we will contact you as a matter of urgency to come and collect them. It is extremely important that we have correct and up to date contact details and that parents/designated contacts are available throughout the day.

6. Health & Safety

Areas of the school will be marked out to allow for 2 metre distancing. There will be regular cleaning throughout the school day, with all hard touch surfaces being wiped over frequently. Windows/Doors will remain open throughout the day.

All toilets have soap and hand driers for all pupils to use as and when needed. **It is essential that pupils wash their hand thoroughly before, and after, going to the toilet.** In order to maximise cleanliness, year groups will be assigned cubicles and wash basins - urinals will not be used. Guidance remains that washing your hands regularly for twenty seconds is the best form of defence against this virus.



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7. Site Access

The school has been advised that no parents or visitors can access the school premises or building at this time – unless subject to a Risk Assessment. If you need to speak to a teacher, or another member of staff, then please either telephone or email/message and someone will be able to help you.

Parents are asked to drop children off to school at the following access points:

- Childcare 'Hub' (Early Years building) – off road access from Heol Hen;
- Infants – use Infant gate off rear of Standert Terrace, directly onto Infant yard;
- Juniors – use main gate off staff car park.

8. Cleaning

The school will be receiving regular cleaning throughout the school day with all hard touch surfaces being wiped over frequently. **As a school we take pride in the cleanliness of our building and will continue to ensure that our high standards of cleaning are maintained.**

9. LSC Transport

If possible, parents/carers are asked to transport their children to school where possible as Local Authority transport will be very limited. If transport is required, please speak to Mrs Totterdale or Mrs Williams. We shall then pass details of the request to the Local Authority transport department.

10. Structure of the Day

Pupils arrival on site will be staggered to ensure social distancing pre and post school. Again, parents/carers/taxi escorts are asked to remain off site before and after school. A member of staff will always be available to meet your child at the start of the day and will hand over to you at the end of the day.

Timetable overleaf:



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Class	Building	Start Time	Break time	Dinner time	Dinner Play	Home time
Childcare Provision	Early Years	08.40	10.30	12.20	12.50	15.10
Y1/2 Mr Curtis	Foundation Phase	08.50	10.30	12.20	12.50	15.15
Y3/4/5 Mrs Wheadon	Key Stage Two	08.40	10.20	12.20*	12.50*	15.05
Y5/6 Mrs Jones	Key Stage Two	08.50	10.35	12.20*	12.50*	15.15
LSC 1 Mrs Totterdale	Foundation Phase	08.50	10.30	12.20	12.50	15.15
LSC 2 Mrs Williams	Key Stage Two	08.50	10.20	12.20*	12.50*	15.15
*Subject to change (if required)						

11. Expectations

Initially, pupils will be informed of our new way of working and the expectations placed upon them. As always, we will do the very best for each pupil. We understand keeping a two-metre distance is difficult, but it is imperative pupils try their best. To support this, staff will use the term 'Bubbles' to remind pupils of the need to distance – when heard, they should remember to move apart! We accept that this is very new for pupils and we will continually reinforce the need for the social distancing. **If we feel that a pupil is purposely ignoring this request or is behaving in a way that puts other pupils and staff in danger then parents/carers will be contacted, the pupil will be sent home and they will continue their learning at home.** We would ask that you reinforce the importance of these expectations to your child before they attend school.

12. Equipment

Pupils will not be able to borrow or share equipment. **We ask that you send your child into school with a pencil case including the general equipment that they need, i.e. pencil, pen, ruler, rubber etc.** Pupils



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will be working in paper-based workbooks that can be transported home and back to school in their bags. There will be no passing of books between staff members and pupils. Therefore, there will be no 'marking of books'. Feedback will be given in other ways i.e. verbal feedback, self-assessment, stickers etc.

13. Breakfast Club/Dinner/Sandwiches

There is **no Breakfast Club** at any NPT school until further notice.

School dinners – **due to Welsh Government funding Free School Meals (FSM) payments, all pupils will be required to pay for school dinners – this is regardless of FSM status.** School dinners will take the form of 'Hot Grab Bags' – the menu is to be confirmed. All school dinners will be taken in classrooms, they will be delivered to pupils to avoid any unnecessary footfall.

Packed Lunch/Sandwiches – pupils are welcome to bring a packed lunch to school. This will be eaten in the classroom. **All rubbish must be returned home in pupils' bags.**

Pupils can bring in their own named water bottles. However, the water fountain will not be in use.

14. Dinner Payment

The school is not permitted to handle any cash/cheques. Therefore, the school is in the process of setting up the online 'Parent Pay' facility. Further information will follow, however please note, if payment is not received, meals will not be served. You will be contacted to make alternative meal arrangements.

15. Uniform

For the remainder of the summer term, we will be relaxing the uniform expectations. Pupils can choose to wear normal school uniform or their own clothes. Uniform will return to normal for September and pupils will be expected to wear full uniform. **Regardless of what pupils wear to school, it must be clean and easy to keep clean. Additionally, pupils must wear clothes they can 'self-help' with i.e. if pupils cannot tie laces, they must wear Velcro shoes.** This will ensure staff do not compromise distancing rules.



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16. Expectations of Parents

We would ask that you:

- Read and understand the guidance and make an informed decision on your child's return to school;
- Complete the online Microsoft 'Form' – <https://cutt.ly/UuyeVE5> – before Wednesday, 17th June to inform the school of your intention to send your child to school, or to continue home-learning. If no reply is received the school shall assume your child is not returning before the summer. If you decide at a later date that you would like your child to return to school, please contact the school office on 01639 700261;
- If 'Hub' provision is required, you carefully consider whether or not childcare can be provided at home. This is to ensure minimum transmission. If required, complete the weekly online 'Form';
- **Every child must inform the school before they attend. This is to ensure we have appropriate Health & Safety protocols in place.**
- Check your child for symptoms every morning. If any symptoms are displayed, keep the child home and contact the school;
- Ensure the school has up to date contact information and somebody is easily contactable whilst the child is in school. A form will be provided on the first day of attendance;
- Equip your child with a pencil case and the appropriate stationery items (pens, pencils, ruler, sharpener, rubber). Pupils will not be allowed to share or borrow equipment.
- Talk through the expectations around Social Distancing and general behaviour with your child. This is a 'new normal' and pupils will need time to understand what is required of them to ensure the school community remains safe.
- Ensure your child comes to school with drinking water in a bottle labelled with their name. Our water fountains will be switched off.



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It is very important that we know which pupils will be attending school as this will have an impact on how we plan moving forward. Please confirm your child's attendance for the week beginning the 29th June using the link below/above **by 5pm on Wednesday 17th June.**

Return to school capture form (as above, only complete once) - <https://cutt.ly/UuyeVE5>

Return to school YouTube video for parents/carers – <https://youtu.be/D42TWXp5VCo>

Return to school YouTube video for pupils – <https://youtu.be/vhO1acynoGU>

Only children whose attendance has been confirmed will have access into school.

Once again, thank you for your support over the past ten or so weeks. It has been difficult for all of us, but I know with continued support from one another, we will continue to prosper and look to a brighter future.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Gareth Phillips

Headteacher