



Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael, Clos Meon, Betws, Casnewydd, NP20 7DU

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Pennaeth: Mrs Bethan Parry-Jones

2nd September, 2020

Annwyl Rieni / Dear Parents,

I am reissuing my letter dated 16th July as not much has changed in Kirsty Williams' (Minister for Education) operational guidance which can be found here: [Operational guidance for schools and settings from the autumn term](#). Any significant changes are in red.

What date will my child start back in September?

All classes will be back tomorrow, Thursday 3rd of September, including Elfed yr Eliffant class (Reception pupils). There will be a staggered start, as usual, for Alun yr Arth class (Nursery/Reception) and parents have been notified directly of the start dates for their children.

What time will school start?

We will be staggering start and end times to reduce the number of pupils entering and exiting the site at any one time and to avoid adult gatherings at the school gates – this will mitigate the risks of COVID-19 to learners, staff and parents.

We ask that parents/guardians please observe social distancing rules and be respectful towards others in terms of social distancing when dropping children off at school.

Class	Arrive between (10 minute slot)	Exit between (10 minute slot)
Arrival and exit is the Hafan gate (community building)		
Alun yr Arth (Reception pupils only)	9.00 – 9.10	3.00 – 3.10
Alun yr Arth (Nursery pupils only)	9.15	11.45
Elfed Eliffant (Reception)	8.50 – 9.00	2.50 – 3.00

Arrival and exit is the main school gate		
Sali Sws (Yr1)	9.00 – 9.10	3.00 - 3.10
Bili Broga (Y2)	8.50 – 9.00	2.50-3.00
Dewi Sant (Y3)	8.40 - 8.50	2.40 - 2.50

Arrival and exit is the top of the school drive		
Owain Glyndwr (Y4)	9.00 – 9.10	3.00 - 3.10
William Morgan (Y5)	8.50 – 9.00	2.50 - 3.00
Betsi Cadwaladr (Y6)	8.40 - 8.50	2.40 -2.50

It will be **essential** that your child arrives **only** at their allotted time slot. When dropping and collecting your child at school, parents must wait outside by the main gate for Yrs 1, 2 and 3 and the drive - the school's main vehicle gate for Yrs 4, 5 and 6. Reception and Nursery pupils will enter via the Hafan gate as usual. **No parents will be allowed down the main steps or drive, only pupils.**

Staff will greet all pupils at their entry points and show them the way into school.

*****All parents must maintain a 2 metre distance from all other parents. *****

Contact Groupings

Contact will be reduced by grouping pupils together as a class. Individual classes will therefore avoid contact between other classes as much as possible through:

- staggered start and end times of the school day
- classes not sharing their space with any other class
- limited movement in shared spaces
- playtimes and lunchtimes being staggered for every class
- lunches being eaten either in classes or outside when the weather permits
- yard space being allocated for different classes during the staggered playtime

Breakfast Club

At present, with other distancing measures in place, this is logistically challenging for the school, particularly as different year groups would have to be accommodated in one hall with very few staff employed to run the Club. The school therefore has decided not to run the club temporarily until we can arrange suitable protective measures. This will be reviewed in due course. However, as you can see with the school start time, we have tried to mitigate the temporary loss of the club with earlier staggered start times to the school day.

School Meals

Chartwells will provide 'grab bag' sandwich options for **Free School Meal pupils only** at the beginning of term, as we will not be using the hall and therefore, no hot lunches will be provided. This will be reviewed in due course.

What will school look like for my child?

- On arrival at school, the class teachers will welcome your child in strategic areas. On entry to school, pupils will be asked to wash their hands and will do this regularly throughout their day in between different activities.
- Some classrooms will still look differently with adaptations to ensure we can maintain distancing, for example, individual, forward facing tables (wherever possible) with equipment provided for each pupil.
- In classrooms windows will be open to improve ventilation.
- Classroom-based resources, such as books and games, will be used and shared within the contact group (class); these will be cleaned regularly, along with all frequently touched surfaces.

The overarching principle will be to reduce the number of contacts between learners and staff. This will be achieved through keeping groups separate (classes) and through maintaining distance between individuals.

What will they wear and do they need to bring anything with them?

Pupils will be required to wear school uniform from the beginning of the new academic year. As we will frequently be working outdoors where possible, and windows will be open in classrooms, please ensure clothing is warm, including jumpers and coats.

We ask that PE kits for Nursery-Year 3 pupils be kept at school until half term and that Year 4-6 pupils wear their kits to school on their allotted day for their lesson. Timetables will be sent out in due course.

Pupils will need to bring a **packed lunch** (which they will eat in their classroom or on the yard), a labelled **water bottle** and a **piece of fruit** for a snack during playtime. Pupils may not bring any equipment into school. They may only use the equipment that we provide them with. They may not share anything with another pupil.

Will the school buses/taxis still run?

School transport has contacted all parents regarding arrangements for this term. More information can be found here: [School Transport](#). Buses/Taxis will arrive at school and pupils escorted straight into the building.

Attendance

All learners will be expected to return to school in the autumn term.

Families should notify school immediately if their child is unable to attend school and explain the reason for this. This can be done via Schoop or through emailing the school.

What else will be in place to keep my child safe?

- In every class, hygiene will be the highest priority. Your child will be instructed to wash their hands regularly. Each classroom will have hand sanitiser and disinfectant sprays/wipes and there will be an increase in the cleaning routines within the school with regular hand washing being maintained throughout the school day.
- Pupils will be encouraged to keep as much distance as possible from each other, but it will not be possible to guarantee a risk free environment. Therefore, the school cannot be held responsible for any outcome that may arise as a consequence. Our behaviour management policy will be adjusted to make clear to children what the new contact rules are. Parents are kindly requested to reinforce the social distance rules at home prior to attendance at school using the resources posted by the staff in Google Classrooms.
- Only one pupil at a time will be allowed to enter the toilets, with an allocated toilet cubicle for their 'class'.
- If your child requires any first aid help at school for any reason, they will be tended to as usual by a trained member of staff, but that member of staff will wear personal protective equipment. This will consist of gloves and an apron.
- Parents and other visitors will not be allowed on school premises without an appointment. We are, as ever, available to talk to on the telephone. In the exceptional event of a meeting being necessary, an appointment should be made, and strict social distancing rules will be applied throughout the meeting.

Illness

Under no circumstances should learners attend school if they:

- feel unwell with any of the identified COVID-19 symptoms (high temperature, coughing or lack of smell or taste). They should remain at home and [self-isolate](#) and arrange a [COVID-19 test](#)
- have tested positive for COVID-19
- live in a household with someone who has symptoms of, or has tested positive for COVID-19.

If your child develops symptoms at school, they will be sent home immediately (an isolation room has been identified) and government guidance will be followed. Please therefore ensure that all your contact details are up-to-date and any changes are notified to us immediately. Diolch for your cooperation.

Personal Protective Equipment

It is important to remember that social/physical distancing, hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene (catching a cough or sneeze in a tissue or covering the mouth and nose with an elbow or sleeve) remain strongly evidenced to be the most effective ways to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

There is therefore **no need** to use personal protective equipment (PPE) when undertaking routine educational activities in classroom/school settings. Therefore, **no face masks** will be worn in school.

What if a future outbreak were to happen?

Welsh Government or Public Health Wales may ask schools to reduce the numbers of pupils attending schools to mitigate the transmission of the virus during a local outbreak. The school may have to swiftly switch back to the system before the end of the summer term which was 3 groups - Red, Blue, Green (a third of the school) or perhaps close particular classes or even have to halve the percentage of pupils in school. If this were to happen, parents would be notified immediately of the procedures.

Will the home learning/online learning continue?

The school will continue to use the Google Classroom platform in school and some tasks may be asked by teachers to be completed at home as a method of home learning. Google Classroom will be used as an individual's profile and parents will be able to view progress through this platform.

In case of a potential of localised outbreaks of COVID and the need to close the school, teachers and pupils will easily be able to switch to their Google Classroom to continue with their learning in the home.

All staff are looking forward to seeing you all and welcoming you back to our family. Your support with all these arrangements will ensure a smooth transition back to school. Diolch for your continued positive partnership with the school.

Diolch yn fawr.

Bethan Parry-Jones
Pennaeth/ Headteacher