



St Therese's Catholic Primary School (Diocese of Menevia) 'Be Joyful, Learn and keep the Faith'



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Since 29th June, schools in Wales have been offering their learners the opportunity to attend sessions to 'check in, catch up and prepare'. This has been optional and on a reduced basis taking into account the scientific advice available at the time and the measures that needed to be put in place to help reduce the risk of transmission. Since then, things have moved on and we now have more evidence and information available to us to inform guidance for the operation of schools in the next academic year. Guidance from Welsh Government now stipulates that the risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from COVID-19 is very low.

Consequently, the Minister for Education announced on 9th July that it will be compulsory for all learners to return to school in the autumn term. To be clear, all learners of compulsory school age must now be in school unless a statutory reason applies e.g. the learner has been granted a leave of absence, is unable to attend because of sickness, is absent for a necessary religious observance, etc. However, this does not apply if your child is still expected to shield after 16th August due to an underlying health condition.

On Thursday 3rd September, all pupils from Reception to Year 6 will be welcomed back into school. Morning Nursery pupils will be contacted regarding a taster session which will take place during the first 2 weeks of term. After this initial one morning taster session, all Morning Nursery pupils can attend school as normal from Thursday 10th September. Each Year Group will be assigned teachers/staff as follows:

Morning Nursery	Mrs Gittins, Mrs Campisi-Jones and Mrs Bamford
Reception	Mrs Cross, Miss Jeffries and Mrs Valetta
Year 1	Mrs Sollars and Mrs Langridge
Year 2	Mrs Thomas (Mrs Griffiths' Maternity cover) and Miss Ryan
Year 3	Mrs Perry
Year 4	Miss Carlsen
Year 5	Mr Rees
Year 6	Mrs Stanier and Mr Davies

Welsh Assembly Guidance provides us with a framework to put in place proportionate protective measures for children and staff but also enables learners to receive an education that offers a broad and balanced curriculum allowing them to thrive and progress. Whilst all learners will be expected to return to school in September, we will still need to continue some of the measures

N.B: If you have any special requirements when visiting us or require written material in a different format which we need to consider, please contact the school.

Acting Headteacher: **MS F SARTORI**

Southdown Road, Sandfields Estate, PORT TALBOT SA12 7HL

Tel: 01639 882797

E-mail: stthereses@npt.school

Website: <http://st-thereses-catholic-primary-school.j2bloggy.com/>

already put in place to minimise any risks from COVID-19 whilst also aiming to provide a full educational experience for your children. As a result, we will still be expected to minimise the number of contacts that every learner has during the school day as part of implementing the system of controls outlined in this guidance to reduce the risk of transmission. These will be as follows:

- 1) Under no circumstances should learners or staff attend schools/settings if they:
 - Feel unwell, have any of the three identified COVID-19 symptoms (a new continuous cough, or a high temperature or loss of or change to their sense of taste or smell) or they have tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 7 days
 - Live in a household or are part of an extended household with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- 2) Robust hand hygiene for all pupils and respiratory hygiene (including ventilation) will continue with the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. Hygiene 'stations' continue to be available so that all learners and staff can clean their hands regularly. All pupils/staff will be expected to wash hands:
 - Upon entry to school.
 - When they return from breaks.
 - When they change rooms.
 - Before and after eating.
 - Before going home.
- 3) School will actively engage with Test, Trace, Protect
- 4) Whilst the 2m distance rule between pupils has been now been removed, pupils will be encouraged to not touch each other as much as possible. Your child will only remain in contact with the fellow pupils within his/her class and will have minimum (if any) contact with other pupils from across the school. There will be minimum movement around the school.
- 5) Classrooms will be repurposed with forward facing desks in Key Stage 2. (Foundation Phase Guidance to follow)
- 6) Separate break times and Lunch time will continue.
- 7) There will be no whole school gatherings for assemblies.
- 8) Gathering at the school gates (or on the school grounds) and coming onto the site without an appointment is not allowed.
- 9) Staggered start and end times to the school day will continue as below:

YEAR GROUP	START TIME AND LOCATION	FINISH TIME AND LOCATION
Nursery	Start: 9.00 am Location: Nursery classroom entrance	Finish: 11.30 am Exit: Nursery classroom entrance
Reception	Start: 8.50 am Location: Reception classroom entrance next to school hall	Finish: 3.00 pm Exit: Reception classroom entrance next to school hall
Year 1	Time: 8.50 am Location: Main Hall Doors	Finish: 3.00 pm Exit: Main Hall Doors
Year 2	Start: 8.40 am Entrance: Main Hall Doors	Finish: 2.50 pm Exit: Main Hall Doors
Year 3	Start: 8.40 am Entrance: Year 3 classroom fire escape	Finish: 2.50 pm Exit: Year 3 classroom fire escape
Year 4	Start: 8.50am Entrance: Year 4 classroom fire escape	Finish: 3.00 pm Exit: Year 4 classroom fire escape
Year 5	Start: 8.40 am Entrance: Year 5 classroom fire escape	Finish: 2.50 pm Exit: Year 5 classroom fire escape
Year 6	Start: 8.50 am Entrance: Year 6 classroom fire escape	Finish: 3.00 pm Exit: Year 6 classroom fire escape

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We will continue to monitor the situation carefully and continue to take advice from both the Local Authority and Welsh Government. Guidance can change at any point and we will notify you of any changes at that time. We will also need to plan for the possibility of a local lockdown and how we will ensure continuity of education by supporting home learning within a broader framework of local restrictions should that happen.

Lastly, could I take this opportunity to express our sincerest gratitude for your commitment to supporting us with maintaining the education of your children during the unprecedented challenges we have faced over the past 4 months. It has been a very challenging time, but with your continued support we are confident to be able to keep any further disruption to your child's education to a minimum in the long term.

We hope you all now relax and enjoy the summer holidays and we look forward to welcoming you all back in September as we enter the next phase of recovery.

Yours sincerely,

F. Sartori

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