



CILFFRIW PRIMARY SCHOOL YSGOL GYNRADD CILFFRIW



11th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for your support for the school during the last fortnight. You have been wonderful at accepting the new start and end of day routines, and all the new procedures. We all appreciate how smooth the reopening of the school has been and we couldn't have done this without your brilliant support. Thank you!

I would also like to add my personal thanks to Mrs Lambert-Jones – she has done an amazing job of leading the school throughout one of the most difficult periods ever and we are very lucky to have her. My thanks also to all our wonderful members of staff who are so focused on making school such a happy and safe place for all our children, and to our governors for their guidance and support.

We are running the school as normally as possible but our number one priority is safety. **This means that there have had to be changes to our normal operating procedures.** Every new procedure has been implemented under the guidance of the local authority and Public Health Wales, and is designed to keep your children, your families and our staff safe. Together we are a community and we have a responsibility to look after each other.

To keep our school community safe:

1. We are teaching the pupils in class “bubbles” that do not mix. Start and end times, break times and lunch times are staggered to keep these groups apart.
2. Members of staff stay with their allocated bubbles – the staffroom is not used.
3. The use of communal areas is limited to ensure bubbles do not mix – the hall is strictly limited to ensure children do not mix on the stairs or at lunch.
4. At the moment children do not have hot meals (to limit use of the hall) but we are in discussion with catering services and have a possible solution. More news here soon.
5. Children wash their hands on entering school, before lunch, after all breaks, after using the toilet and at other times as appropriate. All classes also have hand sanitiser.

6. All classes now have lidded bins for tissues – if a child sneezes they must put the tissue in the bin and wash their hands. Bins are emptied daily and all used tissues are disposed of in sealed bags.
7. All windows are opened before school starts to maximise airflow through the school.
8. Classrooms are cleaned before school, during breaks and after school with the approved disinfectant.
9. Children do not share equipment wherever possible. Any shared equipment is disinfected daily. Younger classes wash their hands when they change activities.
10. All staff are observing social distancing rules. Staff wear masks in communal areas and can choose to wear masks in class.
11. Communication between classes is strictly via walkie-talkie, phone or Microsoft Teams.

There are numerous other routines in place to keep everyone safe. Everything is working very smoothly and the children have been absolutely amazing!



Children who display possible symptoms of Covid-19

There is one final procedure that we are following strictly and we fully understand that this will cause concern and inconvenience to our parents and carers. **If we have any pupils who have a temperature or who are repeatedly coughing, we will phone you and ask you to come and collect your child and any brothers or sisters.** We know that most of the time it will just be a common cold and it is very unlikely to be Covid-19, but we simply cannot take the risk. I apologise in advance for having to do this – I know that this will impact your own routines and cause you concern.

If your child is sent home, please apply for a free test. Phone 119 to arrange a test. There is also a link at the bottom of our website that gives full and detailed information about how to do this.

We are following the local authority guidance that details how long to keep your child off school. There are three different situations:

If your child has a **positive test result** you must keep them off for at least 10 days from the start of symptoms and definitely until all symptoms have completely cleared. "Test Trace Protect" will contact you to give you support and advice, and to identify anyone who has been in contact with your child.

If your child is being tested because they have been **sent home with symptoms** but the test is negative, they can return to school when they feel well enough. If your child still has symptoms they should continue to stay off school.

If you have been contacted by "Test, Trace, Protect" because **someone with coronavirus has been in contact with your family**, even if your test result is negative, your family still has to self-isolate for two weeks. This is because the virus is much more likely to have spread to your family, and it can take time to develop to the stage where it shows symptoms or gives a positive test result.

The guidance for recognising "a new and continuous cough" is not very clear and we would rather be cautious than put anyone at risk. Please also remember that if we have Coronavirus identified in a class we must contact Public Health Wales and the Local Authority. "Test Trace Protect" will direct staff and groups of pupils to self-isolate for 2 weeks and this will cause disruption to large numbers of pupils.

Although we would love to have all children in school every day, we have to prioritise safety. Obviously school attendance is not a priority for us this year.

Please note also that as an extra precaution at the moment, I should be extremely grateful if all our parents and carers could wear a mask when they are on the school premises near staff – and please remember to observe the 2 metre social distancing rule.

Thank you again for your understanding and support for the school. One day we will be studying 2020 as a history topic in schools! We are all waiting for that vaccine! If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Please look after yourselves and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Quin
Head Teacher