

SKETTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

- Ysgol Gynradd Sgeti -

Headteacher:

BEVERLEY PHILLIPS

Tel: 01792 206655

Fax: 01792 200141

Email: sketty.primaryschool@swansea-edunet.gov.uk



Llwynmawr Road

Tycoch

Swansea

SA2 9HJ

BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE

~ Gwnewch eich gorau glas ~

Article 29

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you so much for your patience during such a difficult time, your kindness and supportive emails and comments have been greatly appreciated.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Education Minister for Wales has announced that primary school children will be given an opportunity to “catch up and check-in” at school from the 29th June 2020.

The decision has been made by the Local Authority that nursery age children will not return this term.

The guidance provided by Welsh Government says that less than a third of the school’s population should be on site at any time. Welsh Government have provided guidance and the Local Authority have produced a risk assessment and operational guidelines to help schools. The school’s Governors and Head Teacher will make the decision on how school will achieve this in the safest possible way.

We have decided to offer the children two full day opportunities to visit school over the four weeks. This means the children will be taught by their class teacher and supported by a teaching assistant, in their own classroom.

The children’s classes will be split into 3 groups. The children will be allocated either, a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday as their “chat and check-in” day. Teachers have given consideration, where they have been able to, to accommodate families and friendships when deciding the groupings.

Year groups have been divided over a two-week rota.

Week 1 and week 3, years 6, 4, 2, will attend school.

Week 2 and week 4, years 5, 3, 1, and Reception will attend school.



Teachers will be in contact with every parent to share the allocated times from the beginning of next week.

Children who need extra time for a variety of different reasons will be offered an extra slot on a Thursday morning to focus on a specific issue or need. Thursday afternoon and Friday sessions will be used to enable teachers to focus on planning, and to continue the development of online lessons activities and blended learning. This weekly timetable will also allow the school to have a deep clean.

Over the next week, teachers will be recording a video for each class. The purpose will be to inform the children what is the same in school and what will be different. The teachers will walk the children through the changes, and what the classrooms will look like when they come to school for the “catch up and check-in” on their allocated days. We will also send out a leaflet and power point for everybody to share.

We cannot keep children or staff 100% safe. To reduce the risk of contracting or cross-contamination of the virus the following actions will be in place:

We will need every child to bring in a packed lunch, water bottle and sunscreen. No other bags etc will be allowed.

All equipment will be provided by school, there will be no need for pencil cases.

Each class will be allocated an exit and entrance to the school and a specific start and finish time.

No parents/carers will be allowed on site, and the children will be greeted and dismissed by staff members at their allocated gate at the beginning and end of the day

Any queries or concerns must be brought to the school’s attention by telephone or email.

We ask that parents do not send their child to school if they are feeling unwell and/or have any of the symptoms related to Covid-19.

As an extra precaution, the staff and children’s temperatures will be taken as they come into school. Anyone with a high temperature will be isolated and parents/carers contacted.

If a child becomes ill during the day, they will be isolated and parents/carers contacted.

We will do our very best to ensure children and staff adhere to the social distancing rules.

Signs will be around the school to help this.

We will make sure that all classrooms have hand sanitiser and PPE for staff to wear if they wish and for use when administering First Aid.

Children will be directed throughout the day to wash their hands.

Children will remain in their groups and will not be allowed to mix with other children in their year groups or across the school.

Each class will be allocated toilets, which will be regularly checked and cleaned throughout the day.

Door handles and table tops will be regularly wiped down with anti-bacterial spray throughout the day.

All classroom windows and doors will be open allowing better ventilation.

The daily timetable will include lots of breaks and time outdoors.



The emergency childcare, which has been available for Key Workers' children will continue to the end of this term, from 8.30 am – 3.30 pm; It is essential that you do not use this unless it is an emergency. We have a capacity in school which we cannot go over – it relates to space, staffing, and health and safety.

See below some frequently asked questions.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	
Will school be FULLY open from 29 th June 2020?	No. From 29 th June 2020 the Welsh Government has asked schools to work towards a phased return with only a maximum of 1/3 of the children in school at any one time.
How many days will my child have in school between 29 th June and 27 th July?	We are planning for each child to attend for 2 full days.
Can I choose which days my child/ren attend?	No. We're sorry but there are a lot of factors which need to be considered: availability of staff, emergency childcare, family groups, friendships (if possible).
Will Breakfast Club or after school clubs be running?	No. We do not have the capacity to run Breakfast Club or after school clubs.
Will staff be wearing PPE? Can my child wear a mask?	Masks only prevent the spread of infection if worn correctly. The Welsh Government Guidance advises the wearing of masks where it is not possible to socially distance which may be the case in school. If an individual (staff or child) wishes to do so it will be allowed. The LA have advised that PPE should not be worn as the norm. However, PPE will be worn for certain tasks such as first aid, changing younger children if necessary.
Will all staff be tested for Covid19 before working in school?	Teachers are now in the priority group for testing if they are showing symptoms, and will be offered the anti-body test
Can you guarantee social distancing within school?	Whilst we can't guarantee it, every day the child comes in they will be talked through the necessary precautions, including hand washing and social distancing. Teachers will monitor and keep reminding children through the day. The school will be as safe as reasonably possible. Our children are young, and the younger they are the more difficult it will be to manage social distancing. However, control measures are in place to reduce this where possible.

Can you guarantee my child will not come into contact with someone with Covid19 whilst at school?	No. The school will be as safe as reasonably possible. We have completed a comprehensive Risk Assessment which identifies ways that we will attempt to minimise the risk of cross-infection. However, scientific evidence highlights the fact that schools cannot guarantee pupil safety. Whilst we can't guarantee it, every day the child comes in they will be talked through the necessary precautions, including hand washing and social distancing. Teachers will monitor and keep reminding children through the day. The school will be as safe as reasonably possible. Our children are young and the younger they are the more difficult it will be to manage social distancing. However, control measures are in place to reduce this where possible.
My child is currently in receipt of a shielding letter from the WG (Clinically extremely vulnerable). What will happen?	Welsh Government guidelines remain that anyone who is currently shielding should not come back to school for the time being.
My child is in the clinically vulnerable group? What will happen?	There is no updated guidance around children returning to school who fall into this category. However, we know that adults in the clinically vulnerable (moderate risk) group are at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus and have been advised to practise strict social distancing. Parents should seek medical advice.
I am a keyworker. What happens now?	School has remained open for a small number of children for whom their parents or carers are Covid19 critical keyworkers. If both parents are key workers and you require the service, please contact the school via email for more information. (Please be aware we have a very limited capacity.)
Does my child have to return to school before the summer holiday?	No. Where a parent or carer wishes for their child to remain at home, then school will support this decision. Local Authority will not be issuing fines for children who do not attend. All children will be supported with the online learning.
Will visitors be allowed in school including parents?	Any visitors in school will be by appointment only. School will be minimising face to face contact. Parents will not be allowed into school unless by prior arrangement with the Headteacher.
My child is displaying symptoms. Can they come to school?	No. Anyone displaying the following symptoms should remain at home – new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). Your child should remain at home and self-isolate for 7 days. Fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. NB If anyone in your home starts to display symptoms you must let us know immediately Tel: 206655

What happens if my child starts to display symptoms whilst at school?	If your child starts to display symptoms at school, then they will be isolated. Parents will be called and be expected to collect their child immediately. Parents MUST ensure that they have provided school with up to date emergency contact details.
What will happen if a member of staff with my child, or another child starts to display symptoms?	If a member of staff, or another child who is with your child starts to display symptoms, they will be directed to go home and arrange a Covid19 test. All other members of the class will be sent home to self-isolate until the test result is received.
Will the children of key workers be in my child's group?	Yes, that is entirely possible if the parents have decided to send their children back to school on the allocated days.
My child is in the BAME group. What measures are being put in place?	It is recognised that those from the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups are at an increased risk of contracting Covid19. School believes that the measures identified in the whole school risk assessment mitigate these risks as far as is reasonably practical within the current situation. School is unable to guarantee social distancing within the classroom and parents and carers must therefore make an informed decision as whether they wish for their child to attend the school.
What if my child is unhappy in their class group and does not settle?	You have the choice as a parent whether to send your child back to school this term. We will not be changing the groups of children.
Will school be operating a normal curriculum?	No. Children will be classroom based and will have designated outside areas. Children in the Foundation Phase will utilise the outdoor area immediately outside of the classroom as well as other areas on site. Key Stage 2 children will have designated areas outside for their class. Soft furnishings and resources that are difficult to clean have been removed/taped off. Displays that are interactive will be taped off. There will be no visits to the hall for any reason.
What will my child do at playtime?	Children will need to remain 2m apart in their designated areas. They can chat, dance, play. They will not be able to play football etc. We will be asking the children for their ideas. Any play equipment which is used will be sanitised at the end of the day
What will my child need to bring/wear?	They will be allowed to bring: lunch box, water bottle, sunscreen Wear: normal school uniform
Will my child still have first aid administered if required?	Yes. PPE will be worn by staff when carrying out first aid.

What if things change and I decide I no longer want my child to attend school this term?	If you decide you no longer wish for your child to attend, then you must notify school by speaking to the School Office. Your child will only be able to return when school reopens in September.
Is school being over cautious?	If ever there was a time to be cautious, then this would be it! Our school family matters to us and we want to ensure that we can make school as safe as possible for when children and staff return. This takes time but we hope that you understand why we are taking these precautionary measures.
Will I still have contact with members of staff after 29 th June if my child is not in school?	Yes. School will continue to keep in regular contact with families if their child is not attending. The online learning will continue through all of this.
Will school be open during the 5 week summer break? What about Key Workers?	There are no plans for the school to be open during the summer holidays. The LA will be taking over the running of the Emergency Childcare for Key Workers.
My child is due to leave school this year, will there be some kind of Leavers' event?	Sadly, there will be no 'Leaver's Assembly', however we will continue to monitor Government guidelines and will do our absolute best to ensure our leavers' get the send-off they deserve.
Will my child get to meet their new teacher?	Yes, your child will meet their new teacher. Time will be built into the second day of their catch up and check-in days. Year 6 will also work on some transition activities with the comprehensive.
What will happen in September?	We really do not know yet but will keep you informed as the situation develops.
My child has ALN. Will he/she be receiving specialist and/or additional help?	Each group of children will be no larger than 8 maximum, therefore it is an opportunity to do some differentiated work with pupils. There will be no additional intervention and we do not expect to be visited by any external agencies.
My child is due to start in Nursery in September will we be able to visit, and meet the teacher?	No, sadly this will not be possible this term. However, you will be provided with information and hopefully we will be in the position to hold an event in early September. We will be in touch in due course to arrange start dates for your child.

unprecedented times.

We want to make our children's time in school to "catch up and check-in" as fun, purposeful and SAFE as we can. This can only happen if we work together. Class teachers will be in contact with further details on days, times and allocated entrances and exits.

I know everyone understands how challenging the situation is and appreciates we are doing our utmost to ensure our children and staff are safe, and that we can put in place procedures to reduce risk, and from which we can build and move closer to school returning to normal.

At the moment, we have to embrace the "for now normal" and know that we will be back together under one roof - it's just not yet.

If you still have queries, please email me on phillipsb72@hwbcymru.net or contact school 01792 206655.

Many thanks for your continued support

Mrs Bev Phillips
Head Teacher
Sketty Primary

