



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Ysgol Catholig Santes Fair

As a Catholic Family we will do our best to live and learn as Christ taught us.

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Friday 28th August 2020.

September 2020 - Information for Parents and Carers.

Dear Parent,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all of our children back to school after such a long break. We have worked hard to set up systems and routines for the new term which follow Welsh Government guidance in relation to the health and safety of our children and staff. Please note the information below and carefully follow the steps mentioned. We need everyone to follow this guidance to ensure a safe environment, so that we can focus on our children's learning. Many thanks in advance for your support.

- Return Dates:** here is a reminder of the schedule.
Friday, September 4th: Reception (Mrs. Williams) and Year 6 (Mrs. Frampton) return.
Monday, September 7th: Year 2 (Miss. Chatman), Y3/4 (Mrs. Bowd) and Year 4/5 (Mrs. Coles and Mrs. Jones) return. Visits to the Nursery begin.
Wednesday, September 9th: Year 1 (Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Parry), Year 3 (Mrs. Gmitrowicz) and Year 5 (Mr. Howe) return.
Monday 14th September: Nursery start staggered entry.
- Uniform:** Normal uniform is to be worn for the new term. Parents of children in years 3 to 6, please note that this includes a white shirt and school tie. Any new uniform required can be purchased from Mrs Rumbul. Her contact details are: by 'phone: 01656 659401 or e-mail: buyschooluniform@aol.
- Arriving at and leaving the school site:** Children arriving by bus will be supervised into their classes by staff through gate 1 (next to the car park). Children being brought to school by parents or carers can arrive between 8.50 and 9am and enter through gate 2 (nearest the side of the building) only. Children can then be accompanied, if necessary, to their classes but parents and carers must stay outside the building and ensure that they are socially distanced (2 metres) from others.

Headteacher: Mr. Lyndon Watkins, BA (Hons), MA (Ed), PGCE, NPQH.
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. Rachel Azzopardi, B.A (Hons), MA (Ed).



At 3.15pm, parents and carers again can enter through gate 2 and wait to collect their children outside their child's class in a socially distanced way and then leave through gate 2 and turn right only. This is to allow for the safe loading of the buses. Bus children will be given specific seats that they will use each day. Picking up and dropping off times will remain unchanged. Please note that parents and carers need to make an appointment via the office to come into school. Please do not enter the building except in an emergency. We normally operate and encourage an 'open door' approach but, at the moment, this is not possible.

4. **Equipment:** Children in years 1-6 can bring a small pencil case to school containing the basics such as a pen, pencil, coloured pencils and a ruler. Each child will only use their own equipment throughout the day. In order to facilitate the smooth working of our cloakroom routines, please only allow your child to bring a small bag into school. Changing for PE lessons can go ahead as usual.
5. **Break and lunchtimes:** these will be staggered in order to allow for appropriate social distancing to be in place. This means that only half of our children will have breaks and lunchtimes at the same time. Each class will form a 'bubble'. As far as is reasonable, the bubbles will be kept apart during the day. The cashless dinner money system will operate as usual. Sandwiches can be brought to school, as normal, according to your preference. Uneaten food will remain in sandwich containers to minimise movement around the hall (this also allows parents to know what their child has eaten at lunchtime).
6. **Movement around the school:** we will have a 'keep left' system in operation. It would help us greatly if you could discuss this with your child and maybe practise it a little at home!
7. **Wrap around care:** The Local Authority aim to begin Breakfast Clubs as soon as possible and we will do the same with our After School Sunbeam Club, as we understand that these services are vital to many families. We will let you know as soon as we have confirmation of a start date. We are very hopeful that we'll be able to get things up and running by the middle of September.
8. **Collective worship and Mass:** for the time being, we are unable to have the usual assemblies in school, together as a community in the hall. Prayer and worship will still happen every day but they will be class based. We look forward to being able to celebrate School Masses again in the church but, to be realistic, these will not be happening for some time given the current circumstances.
9. **School trips:** these will be curtailed during the Autumn Term. However, trips to open air locations will go ahead.
10. **Extra-curricular clubs:** we will allow the new term to settle down and then identify any clubs that can go ahead after risk assessing them but, to start with, clubs will not be functioning.



I trust that the information above answers any queries that you may have before the start of the new academic year. We will be assessing our children over the early weeks of the term and planning any additional support that may be needed for them. The effect of such a long time away from school is unknown, both socially and academically. Please be assured that we are absolutely determined to get our children back on track quickly. Your support of this vital work will be much appreciated. Please continue to read with and to your child as often as possible. You are most welcome to contact me with any further queries that you may have.

Yours Sincerely,

Lyndon Watkins

Headteacher.