



GLAIS PRIMARY SCHOOL - YSGOL GYNRADD GLAIS
School Road, Glais, Swansea SA7 9EY



A BRIDGE TO OUR SUCCESS - PONT I'M LLWYDDIANT
GLAIS PRIMARY SCHOOL - YSGOL GYNRADD GLAIS

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11th February 2021.

Dear Parent/Carer,

In my previous communications following Welsh Government's announcement, I promised to keep you updated and share with you our school's plan moving forward.

The purpose of this letter is to set out whole school information.

The Welsh Government have stated that Foundation Phase children should be able to return to their school setting during the week beginning 22nd February. Welsh Government have updated the operational guidance and risk assessments for school settings and this means and that many of the restrictions that were in place before Christmas remain and some restrictions have become stricter.

Monday 22nd February

The school is closed for all pupils on Monday 22nd February. This includes the childcare hub. There will be no online learning set for this day. This is a local authority decision and affects all schools in Swansea.

Tuesday 23rd February

The school is only open for children of critical workers on Tuesday 23rd February. This is a local authority decision and affects all schools in Swansea. If you are a critical worker and require childcare on Tuesday 23rd February, please fill in the Microsoft Form for this day. The hub on this day will run from 8am-4pm.

Glais re-opening In February – information for parents/carers

Foundation Phase Pupils

Glais will re-open for all children in the Foundation Phase on Wednesday 24th February.

The Foundation Phase will operate in a similar way to before Christmas. We are required to ensure that class bubbles do not mix. Staff are required to wear masks when they cannot socially distance. This means, realistically, that staff will be wearing masks in classrooms. This is within the operational guidance from Welsh Government.

Drop Off- Some plans are different, due to increased requirement to keep classes as separate as possible

1. The drop off arrangements that were in operation before Christmas remain (drop off is between 8:40am and 8:50am). Please do not queue outside the school at drop off time. Please

maintain social distancing. Morning Nursery to be dropped off at the front yard at 8:50. Afternoon Nursery to be dropped off at front yard at 12:50.

2. Reception to be dropped off at the front yard at 8:50.

3. Year 1 to be dropped off at the front yard at 8:40.

4. Year 2 dropped off at the front yard at 8:40.

Lunch

1. Please can all children bring a packed lunch for the 24th-26th February. The school kitchen will resume normal provision from Wednesday 1st March. We do still request that where possible children bring packed lunches as the logistics of staff delivering lunches (as we cannot use the hall) are challenging.

Pick Up

1. Pick-ups remain as before Christmas. Morning Nursery, picked up from front yard at 11:20am. Afternoon Nursery, picked up from front yard at 15:20. Reception picked up from front yard at 15:15.
2. Year 1 and 2 picked up from front yard at 15:10. Please wait for your class to be called. Please maintain social distancing outside the school.

Key Stage 2

1. We have no date yet for the return of Key Stage 2 to the classroom.
2. Online/ blended learning will continue in the same way that it currently operates

Key Stage 2 Hub

1. The key stage 2 hub for children of critical workers will run from 1st March from 9am-3pm. Due to space and the staffing required, we need to cap the number in the hub at 11. We cannot go above this number. We do not envisage this will be a problem as the hub currently operates within these numbers.
2. If you are only using the hub (and not breakfast club) the drop off and pick up for Year 3-4 and Year 5-6 will be the rear gate.
3. The year 3-4 and 5-6 hub will be staffed by year 3-4 and 5-6 staff. We do not have the staff to operate the hub as class pods, but the lower numbers mean we can mitigate risks and operate as phases.

Breakfast club/ After-school Club and Wraparound

1. Breakfast Club will operate under their normal hours from Wednesday 24th February for FP children of critical workers (hall) only, KS2 children in main building. We are fortunate to have the space and limited staff available to us, that allows us to operate breakfast club and without compromising bubbles. This is not the case in all schools.

Class organisation – in school

1. Each mixed class will operate as a pod, in order to promote social distancing. These pods will operate as per before Christmas with children and adults spending the whole day within this pod, including break-times and lunchtimes. We will endeavour to ensure that they do not come into contact with any other groups of children in the school.
2. All year groups will operate with the class teacher and at least one other adult. This will ensure that break times and lunchtimes can be supervised appropriately.
3. We will try to use outdoors as much as possible, although this is obviously weather dependant.
4. There will be no assemblies or gatherings of any groups. Assemblies will be carried out in class and via Microsoft Teams.
5. Our outdoor space, for break and lunch times, will be zoned so that each class has an area to play in. We will put up gazebos/sails outside to provide shade.
6. We have to limit the amount of shared resources, so children are not continually touching things that other children have touched. We are allowed to send resources home, although these will be kept to a minimum. Each child will have a set of resources, in a labelled zipped wallet, on their individual desks for them to use throughout the day.
7. From 1st March, the school kitchen will be open and is able to provide hot meals. However, as we have been asked to minimise mixing of classes, children will be eating in their classrooms as per before Christmas. This means hot meals would have to be transported to classrooms with minimal staff. We would therefore ask that parents consider sending children with a packed lunch and snack if possible or order a cold meal which will be easier to transport. Thank you in advance for your support.

Pick Up and Drop Off – We will need to continue to stagger drop off and pickups to ensure we minimise contact between adults.

Drop offs and pickups will be staggered. We have to do this to minimise the number of adults and children gathering at the same time. As per the Welsh Government /Local Authority guidance, we need to minimise parents on site, to accompanying their child to their drop off/pick up zones.

Parents and carers will need to ensure that they are prompt picking up/ dropping off in their designated time slots to support us to observe social distancing. With so many more adults and children being at pick up and drop off points, this will be especially important. Late drop offs and pick ups will mean a greater chance of groups mixing. Please support us by being prompt. If you are early, please wait across the road, until your class staff arrive at their zone.

Food

· The school kitchen will be open and is able to provide hot meals. However, as we have been asked to minimise mixing of classes, children will be eating in their classrooms as per June/ July. This means hot meals would have to be transported to classrooms with minimal staff. We

would therefore ask that parents consider sending children with a packed lunch and snack if possible or order a cold meal which will be easier to transport. Thank you in advance for your support.

- All children must bring in their own water bottle and snack from home.
- Children will eat their lunch within their class either inside their room or outside in their designated space, supervised by class staff.

What not to bring and School Uniform

- Children will need to bring to school as little as possible each day, drinks bottle, packed lunch and a snack. Initially, PE kits will not be required. We will update this information as soon as we are able to.
- Children will be expected to wear uniform on return to school.

Cleaning and Hygiene

- The cleaning regime in school will remain largely the same. Resources and the school building will be cleaned thoroughly at the end of each day.
- Hand soap, water, paper towels and hand sanitiser will be available to all classes.
- Pupils and staff will be reminded to follow regular and thorough hygiene procedures.
- Staff are required to wear masks whenever they cannot distance- this includes in classrooms.
- Classes have been allocated their own toilet facilities. Children will wash hands before and after toilet visits.

Home Learning

1. We will resume sending out home learning (ie homework!) using the platforms we have set up for the lockdown.

Sending Children to School and Attendance

- All children in Foundation Phase will return to school in the February, unless they have a medical/ health reason not to.
- Staff, children and parents should NOT attend the school if they have any symptoms or are self isolating due to symptoms in their household.
- If your child displays symptoms in school, they will be isolated within a safe space with a member of staff. Parents will be called and will be expected to pick up their child as soon as possible.
- Children and staff who have been classed as clinically vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions and have been shielding should follow their doctor's advice on returning to school.

· If a child or staff member lives in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable (as per the guidance) should follow their doctor's advice on returning to school.

As a parent myself, I can fully appreciate that you will have your own views, opinions and concerns about Welsh Government's decision and the impact it will have on your own family situation. I am sure there will be a full spectrum of thoughts and views about this matter.

School re-opening in September was not easy, however by working together I think we can agree that it has been a success. By continuing to communicate effectively and address any issues and queries you have, I am sure that February will also be a success.

Thank you all for taking the time to read this letter. This continues to be an evolving situation and should there be any developments over the half term break, I will keep you informed.

Kind regards,

Mrs Davies.

