**How will Maesmarchog be following Welsh Government COVID guidance on the pupils’ return to school 6th September 2021?**

 Self-Isolation

 Any pupil or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate and not attend school.

Anyone developing symptoms should also not attend school but should self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test. If a child or staff member becomes unwell with symptoms during the school day, they will be moved to an area of the school away from other pupils and in the case of a pupil, their parent/guardian will be contacted to collect them as soon as possible. They will be encouraged to follow the advice on Test, Trace, Protect (TTP), including self-isolating and arranging a test. Staff and parents/carers receiving a positive test result will be actively encouraged to report these to the HT directly.

 Household contacts of positive cases who are over 18 and not fully vaccinated must self-isolate.

Household contacts who are fully vaccinated or under 18 do not need to self-isolate.

Testing

Testing will continue to play a part in supporting schools and settings in the autumn to quickly identify and isolate infected individuals. School staff and secondary age learners will be encouraged to undertake Lateral Flow Tests just before the return to school and twice weekly from that point on.

Social Distancing

Staff will maintain physical distance as previously, more than 2 metres if possible from other adults and where possible from children. In particular, they should avoid close face-to-face contact and minimise time spent within one metre of anyone It is understood that this is impossible with younger learners and with some pupils with additional learning needs. Learners will also be encouraged to maintain physical distance wherever possible, again with the understanding that this is impossible with the youngest learners.

Movement around the school site will be kept to a minimum. While passing briefly in the corridor or playground is low risk, the school will avoid creating busy corridors, entrances and exits.

Parents are asked not to congregate around school entrances but to maintain social distancing at the beginning and end of the day. For the first week, Monday September 6th – Friday September 10th the school will continue with staggered start and finish times. Please see the table below

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Class | Entrance | Start time | End time |
| Class 1 & 6 LSC | Main gates on Main Road, staff to collect pupils from taxies.  | As taxies arrive around 8:40am | 3:20pm |
| Class 2 | Side gate on School Road adjacent to nursery yard | 8:45am for Reception and morning Nursery12:10pm for afternoon Nursery | 11:30 for morning Nursery3:15pm for Reception and afternoon Nursery |
| Class 3 | Side gate on Highland Crescent adjacent to class | 8:55am | 3:25pm |
| Class 4 | Main gates on Main Road morningMain entrance School Road afternoon | 8:40am | 3:10pm |
| Class 5 | Main entrance School Road | 8:50am | 8:20pm |

From Monday 13th September, **all** children will start school at 8:50am and end school at 3:20pm. **However**, we will continue to use the separate entrances for each class in order to facilitate social distancing. Parents with children in more than one class should take their youngest child to their class’s entrance first, going in order to their eldest child being dropped last. At the end of the day, staff will stay with pupils until they are collected by parents (unless it has been arranged with the school that Year 5/6 pupils are allowed to make their own way home)

With Class 4 and Class 5 pupils using the same entrance at the end of the day, Class 4 pupils will leave first and when the entrance is clear of the majority of pupils and parents, Class 5 pupils will follow.

Face Coverings

Parents may wish to continue routinely wearing a face covering when they are bringing or collecting their child/children especially around entrances where there is likely to be more social mixing.

 Bubbles

The school will continue to operate a bubble system for the time being. There will be a stronger focus on contact tracing, in line with the general population. The TTP system will be used to identify close contacts of learners who have tested positive, and TTP may contact the school or setting to supplement the information they have gathered. The school will continue to follow advice they receive from TTP about whether individuals need to self-isolate.

Children will continue to play on separate yards and/or at different times to maintain their bubble as well as where possible, use separate toilets for different groups of learners.

Cleaning

For the time being, desks and high touch areas will continue to be cleaned by school staff between sessions. If a positive case arises within a class, the Local Authority will carry out a deep clean.

 Ventilation

Windows and doors where possible will be kept open to maximise natural ventilation avoiding the use of recirculating fans. .

 Hand /Respiratory Hygiene

All learners and staff will continue to be encouraged to wash their hands regularly: cleaning hands thoroughly more often than usual with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using a hand sanitiser if soap and water are unavailable. Good respiratory hygiene will be promoted consisting of the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it, and wash your hands’ approach.

 Visitors

At least for the first few weeks, visitors into the school building will be kept to a minimum except for workers carrying out essential tests or maintenance. If a parent/guardian wishes to speak to a member of staff about any matter, particularly one of a sensitive nature, the parent is asked to make a mutually convenient appointment with the member of staff.