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Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As a school we are busy planning to welcome back your children on a rota basis from the 29<sup>th</sup> of June and have received the final guidance from Welsh Government. We want to share our plans with you in the clearest way possible while still giving you the chance, as always, to ask questions or raise concerns.

Thank you to those who have replied to the survey that I text out earlier this week, it has helped to put together some frequently asked questions which I'll either answer below, or tell you how we'll be letting you know.

1. How will I know what day my child has been allocated?

*The school will be sending text messages out to parents for each child to let you know early next week. If parents haven't responded, we'll allocate them an available day.*

2. Do I have to send my child back, I'm worried about keeping people at home safe?

*No, but we'd really like them to come in unless "shielding". This means protecting those people who are extremely vulnerable to the serious complications of coronavirus because they have a particular existing health condition. This includes children, who are extremely vulnerable and at high risk of developing serious illness if they are exposed to coronavirus (COVID-19) because they have a particular serious underlying health condition. These individuals will have received a shielding letter from the Chief Medical Officer. Pupils in this category will not be asked to attend school and will be supported to learn from home. It's best to drop us an email on [melinprimary@npt.school](mailto:melinprimary@npt.school) so we can get in touch and discuss each particular situation with you.*

3. What do I do if my child or someone in the house shows symptoms of COVID-19?

*PLEASE, let us know straight away by phone or email. Under no circumstances should learners attend schools if they:*

- feel unwell, have any of the three identified COVID-19 symptoms (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or loss of taste or smell) or they have tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 14 days*
- live in a household with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 14 days.*

4. How is the picking up and collecting of children going to work? Will the school times change?

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*We are going to be publishing a plan on our school website that will go into this in detail including maps and information. There will also be signs and other things in the yards to help you find your way.*

*We will have to stagger start end finish times for the school day, but not too much due to the layouts of the buildings. We've also built in 'travel time' between sites to help parents with children on both sites. If your child is late, we'd ask that you hold off coming in until 9.15 am as all entrances are being used by other children and parents and we don't want to compromise the 'bubble' by having additional people queuing together. We are going to need parents and other children in the yard to follow the social distancing guidelines and respect others' space.*

*The time for Nursery sessions will have to change to allow time for us to clean surfaces and toys for the next session of children to come in. We're sorry about this, but it was either do this or not be able to open for nursery pupils.*

*Teachers and teaching assistants will, unfortunately, not be able to stand and talk with parents before or after school due to privacy/confidentiality and social distancing measures needing to be in place. We're sorry about this and would like to ask parents to ring or email the school so that we can get in touch to discuss anything that's on your mind.*

5. Will there be breakfast club? Will there be after school clubs too?

*The school has had guidance from the Local Authority that breakfast clubs will not be running. However, we will make toast and milk available to the children early in the morning instead within their classroom. There will not be any after school clubs running, sorry.*

6. What is going to happen at lunch time?

*The school halls are being used to cater for our essential worker children and invited families. That means that we can't serve food in the halls. If children pay for their lunch, they can have a lunch prepared by the kitchen which will include a healthy packed lunch and some hot party-type food that can be easily served.*

*If your child is entitled to free school meals, we will be texting out a letter to you in a few days to inform you of some changes with meal arrangements for the days the children are in school. If your child wants to bring their own packed lunch in, they can. Children who bring their own packed lunch in to school must take their rubbish home with them.*

7. What are the arrangements for my child while they are in school going to be?

*We are looking to have smaller groups of children (up to 8) in their usual, familiar classroom. We'll be minimising how much children move around the school and teaching them how to socially distance. Over the next four weeks, we'll be catching up, keeping in touch and preparing for September by teaching them how to play in a new way, how to take care of themselves and how to manage their feelings at what is a really difficult time.*

*The children will have a set of easily cleanable brand new play equipment for their group which they will use at break times in a designated part of the yard – not stuck in a plastic hoop like some photos have shown! In class, they'll be given their own little pencil case*

*with pens, pencils, coloured pencils etc in it. If they're using a computer it will be wiped down before and after use by an adult. The children will be washing their hands frequently through the day to make sure we're as clean as healthy as can be. The desks have been set out to make social distancing easier.*

8. What about PPE? Will you be taking their temperature when they come into school?

*At the moment the guidance says that PPE will only be needed to be worn by adults if they are cleaning or dealing with first aid or someone is ill. However, some members of staff may need to wear a mask to enable them to be in work. We are looking into getting masks with clear panels, if possible, to support staff and pupils who have hearing impairments. We will only be taking the temperature of children if they complain of symptoms or generally feel unwell. We'll also be cleaning 'high contact' areas during the school day too to make sure that the building is as safe as can be.*

9. What is the school going to do about transition activities?

*Plans for the Nursery children moving to Reception are being finalised and we will be in touch. We'll be looking at using technology to show the children and parents the Key Stage Two site and to talk to other children who are already in the setting for our Year 2 children who are moving to Year 3. Cefn Saeson are finalising arrangements for the Year 6 children. We'll give further details as they emerge.*

10. Will the children be getting end of year reports?

*Yes, the teachers are busily finishing them but obviously they won't be containing as much information as usual as the teachers have only been able to teach them for half of the academic year.*

I'd like to end this letter with a note of thanks for the teachers, teaching assistants, clerks and caretaker who have been working so hard behind the scenes in making the building safer, setting distance learning work for the children or supervising in the Hub. Please rest assured that the Governing Body of the school is not prepared to take risks with the health of our children, staff or visitors to our school.

We're all looking forward to getting back to school, seeing the children and working towards a new normal. If this time proves anything it is that the school is about the children, the buildings are a sad shadow now of what they used to be with your children learning and laughing in them. If you do have any questions, please, get in touch with us by email at [melinprimary@npt.school](mailto:melinprimary@npt.school).

Yours sincerely,

T. Richards  
Headteacher