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Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As a school we are busy planning to welcome back your children from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to our Foundation Phase site on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of February. 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.

We understand that this is still a difficult time for everyone in our school community, but want to reassure you that as a school, we are doing all we can to ensure that your children will be safe during their time with us in school.

We have regular routines in place around handwashing, we make sure that areas are well ventilated, and that children stick to their 'class bubbles' when in school. Our school staff will also be wearing their masks more in class when working closely within 2 metres of the children which will be strange at first for the children. Our experience has shown that the children really don't mind this and get used to it quickly. We are also going to be continuing to make sure that high contact surfaces, classroom and communal areas are cleaned regularly using appropriate cleaning products ensuring everyone is kept as safe as possible.

The Welsh Government has made the decision for Foundation Phase pupils to return because they have found that the youngest pupils in schools find it hardest to learn remotely and miss the interaction that they need with their teachers to help them learn. I strongly encourage you to make the most of this opportunity and to send your Foundation Phase age child back to us to start on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of February.

**There will be no online work set for pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 who do not return to school on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, unless they themselves are in receipt of shielding letters.**

There are things that you can do as parents to help the return to school run smoothly and help reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19 within our school community:

- Please wear a mask at all times when on school site. If you are exempt from wearing a mask, please bring evidence of this just in case we need to check.
- Please remember that the 'class bubble' is just for in school. It doesn't mean that the children can mix outside of school. We've been asked by Welsh Government to remind parents that birthday parties, sleep overs and other events are still not allowed. It's not really our place to remind parents of this, but it's important that we all do our bit to keep everyone safe.
- Please don't send your child to school if they show any of the symptoms of Covid-19 namely a new persistent cough, a higher than usual temperature or a loss of taste/smell.

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- Please, once your child has been dropped off or collected safely from school, leave site as quickly as you can without mixing with other families. I know this is hard, but again, we need to do our bit to keep everyone safe.

We are going to continue to use the usual drop off and collection times and places for our Foundation Phase pupils that we were using before Christmas. Breakfast Club will also be running on the Foundation Phase site from 8.20 am with last entry at 8.45 am through the Y1 door (near the office).

Class	Start	End
Nursery (AM)	9.00 am	11.00 am
Nursery (PM)	1.00 pm	3.00 pm
Reception	9.00 am	3.10 pm
Year 1	9.00 am	3.10 pm
Year 2	8.40 am	3.00 pm

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.

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. It's important that you let us know important information about positive or negative experiences that your child or family may have experienced over these last few months.

For parents who have children in the Key Stage Two site, when more information is released from Welsh Government regarding when we can welcome them back, we'll let you know. In the meantime, the Hub will continue to operate in Key Stage Two for key worker and invited pupils and the other boys and girls will continue to have online learning set for them to complete by their teachers.

If you do have any questions, please, get in touch with us by email on our school email address [melinprimary@npt.school](mailto:melinprimary@npt.school). I'll look to collate the questions and answer them in another newsletter which I'll text out over half term. We're excited to welcome our youngest pupils back and I hope that we'll be welcoming back our Key Stage Two pupils soon. We've really missed having you all here.

I'd like to end this letter with a note of thanks for the teachers, teaching assistants, clerks, cleaners, cooks and lunchtime supervisors who have been working so hard to make sure that the children in the Hubs have been safe and learning. Please rest assured, as before, 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.

Yours sincerely,

T. Richards