

Golden Grove School
Ysgol Gelli Aur

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Check in, Catch up and Prepare for Summer and September!

Over the last week or so, we have had many questions from parents, Governors and staff about the reopening of Golden Grove School on the 29th June. We fully appreciate that this is a very challenging time and the gradual return to school is a cause of anxiety for us all.

We can assure you that we will follow all guidance produced by the Welsh Government and PCC to ensure that all members of the school community are working in an environment that is as safe as possible.

We have tried to answer some of your questions following the guidance provided by PCC (see FAQs below). However, this is an ever changing situation and some procedures and protocols may change as more guidance is issued.

At the moment, staff are busily preparing the school building for the reopening on Monday 29th June. We will create a video to show parents how the school is set for the children's return, which we're sure you'll find helpful. This will be put up on Facebook at some point next week.

The 'check ins' will certainly provide us with the opportunity to see how the children are, and the focus of the day will be around their well-being with some social interaction with their peers. It will also be an opportunity to see how they've been doing with their home learning and set them up with activities to be completed prior to their next day in school. Please note, however, that there is no expectation for parents to send their children to school, unless they are entirely happy to do so.

The school will now also be providing childcare for the children of key workers. This means from Monday 22nd June there will be no longer childcare facilities available at the Monkton Hub. If you need to use this facility, you may do so if you are a key worker. Please see the Facebook/ OurSchoolsApp post that was put up on Monday, or go to the Pembrokeshire County Council website for details of the criteria needed and how to apply.

Thank you for your continued support during this most challenging of times and we look forward to seeing you returning safely to our school community.

Very best wishes,

Andrew Williams

Mr A Williams

Head Teacher



Partial Re-opening of Schools

Safety information for parents and carers

Travel to and from school

- If possible, we are asking parents and children to walk or cycle to school.
- Only one adult from each family to bring or collect each child/ or children from school please.
- Unfortunately, during this period we will be unable to welcome any parents into school. If you have any queries, please ring or e-mail the School Office.
- The layby in the school car park will be closed (apart from disabled bays) at the end of the school day to free up space for children who need to be collected.
- We will arrange that siblings will be in school on the same day.

Drop off and Pick up

- Children accessing Key Worker provision will arrive at school between **8:00am and 8:30am** and will use the middle entrance to the school hall.
- Please see attached Appendix for details on drop off and pick up times for each class.
- If you need to collect your child early, then you will need to phone the office and we will arrange for your child to meet you.

Uniform

- Please send children to school in **clean clothing** each day.
- Children are **not** required to wear school uniform.
- As they will be outdoors a good deal, a coat will be required.
- Children will **not** bring anything else from home as everything will be provided – i.e. no school bags, stationery. The only exceptions are a coat, water bottle and lunch box. However, we would encourage you to have school dinners.
- Children will **not** be required to change their shoes, to indoor shoes, during the day.
- Some staff may choose to wear face masks/coverings
- In sunny weather, please apply sun-cream to your child prior to dropping them off. (the Once-a-day type is recommended)
- We request that children **do not** wear face masks or coverings **whilst in school**, if masks are worn for the journey to school we politely request that parents keep the mask at drop off time and that it is **not** brought into school with the child.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We request that children arrive during drop off times attached. However, if you arrive late, your child will be taken to a safe 'holding' area inside school. • Parents who come to drop off or collect children, please observe the social distancing guidelines, particularly when making your way round to collect Foundation Phase children (similar to supermarket queuing!) • Siblings to arrive at school at the same time as their youngest sibling, and likewise with them leaving school. 	
<p>Bubbles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each class will be dividing children into several 'Bubble Groups', with each group always being with the class teacher. • The bubble structure will help to reduce the number of people children and staff have contact with each day. • Children will have the opportunity to complete some home learning tasks in school. • The class teacher will be the lead for each bubble group. • The children of key workers will be within the normal class set up. 	<p>Hygiene and cleanliness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will wash their hands on entry to their bubble and will be reminded to wash their hands frequently during the day. • Tissues will be available. • Classrooms, toilets and doors will be cleaned regularly, throughout the day. • Classroom doors and windows will be kept open to aid ventilation. • Visual reminders, such as songs and videos, will be used too, to reinforce the hand washing message and method.
<p>Social Distancing - In the Classroom:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that social distancing is maintained; there will be tables and equipment for children only in the 'Bubble'. • The 'Bubble' of staff and children, will not have contact with other people throughout the day. • Children will be allocated their own table and chair within the class. • They will not share any equipment or resources with other children. • Children will only move from their table when asked by their named adult. • Lining-up times, will also be carefully managed to maintain social distancing. • Children will remain in their allocated space for the day; only leaving for breaks and physical activity, with their own small group of children. • Whole school activities, such as assemblies, will not take place. 	<p>Lunch Time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch will be served in the dining hall. This is likely to be a school packed lunch or a hot meal. Dietary requirements will be met as usual. • Although this isn't a directive, we would welcome as many children as possible having school dinners each day. • Most children will eat their lunch in the classroom, or possibly outside (depending on the weather). The younger children will use the dining hall to eat their food. <p>Using outside areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are keen that the children have regular time outdoors, with their small 'Bubble Group'. This is good for their physical and mental wellbeing at this time. • There will be timetabled outdoor time both as part of their daily routine and also for break and lunchtimes. • When outdoors, children will only mix with children from their own bubble, maintaining social distancing. • This means they will not have contact with children from other classroom 'Bubbles' during outdoor times. • Children will wash their hands prior to going outside and on entry back into the classroom. • They will be reminded of the importance of social distancing whilst outdoors too.

<p>Use of toilets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each bubble group will use the toilets within their area. • Children will wash hands before using the toilet. • They will wash hands after use of the toilet. • Children will use 2m distancing when waiting to use the toilet. • Younger children will need to be as independent as possible; it will be good practice! 	<p>First Aid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aiders will be available to be called upon. • If children feel unwell, they must let their teacher know. • The teacher will follow the appropriate protocol to isolate the student in order to reduce risk to others. • Separate isolation rooms will be designated and equipped in the event of a member of the school falling ill. • Children falling ill during the school day will need to be collected by their parents immediately.
<p>Attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents wishing their child to attend Key Worker provision will use the Booking System as usual. If children can be cared for at home safely, then this should continue to be the case. • Children who are shielding or live with someone who is shielding, should not be required to attend school. They will continue to follow the Home Learning Programme. • Children who are in or live with someone who is in a vulnerable group may attend school, but must maintain strict social distancing. • No parent will be pressured to return their child to school and no fines will be issued for non-attendance. (Office staff may ring to confirm absence following our usual procedures.) • Please do not send your child to school on any days other than the ones they have been booked in to attend. • To help protect the health and safety of all members of the school; any child who is unable to follow guidelines and instructions may be asked to stay at home during this time. <p>Behaviour The normal school policy on behaviour will apply when the school reopens. In addition to this, we will be operating a pandemic behaviour policy. This will follow the rules as set out in Welsh Government Policy on social distancing during the pandemic. Pupils who consistently break these rules or fail to follow health and safety procedures and instructions, putting themselves and others at risk, may be asked to stay at home.</p>	<p>Covid19 Symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children must not attend school if they have displayed any symptoms in the last 14 days. • If children have any of the following symptoms they must stay at home and you should contact school to let us know: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cough - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing - Fever or chills - Muscle pain - Sore throat - New loss of taste or smell • If your child is displaying Covid symptoms, please keep them at home for seven days, whilst the rest of the household self-isolates for 14 days. • It is parents' responsibility to seek a test as quickly as possible. • If a positive case is confirmed, then the whole of the classroom bubble including adults, will need to self-isolate for 14 days. • If a test proves negative, school will need proof of this result before the child returns to school. • If there appears to be a significant outbreak of the virus within school, then the school will likely close again and deep cleaning will follow. • Please do not send any child to school who is at all unwell.

Home-Learning

- It is important that home-learning continues for all groups of learners, in the way it has been during the lockdown period.
- Teachers will continue to set work, for home-learning, and children will be given the opportunity to complete some of this at school.
- Work will focus on consolidating, reinforcing and reviewing key knowledge and skills, in order to ensure that this learning is not lost.
- Work will also continue to prioritise pupil emotional wellbeing.
- We are always happy to be given constructive feedback regarding home-learning, from parents and carers.
- As teachers are now teaching in class more frequently, responses to home learning queries may not be as frequent. Please be patient as they will respond.

Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact the school on 01646 682605 or by email Head.golden-grove@pembrokeshire.gov.uk,
Katie Jones (JonesK883@hwbmail.net) or Hannah Golding (GoldingH2@hwbmail.net)

Appendix 1 – Drop off and Pick up Arrangements

	Dropping Off	Picking Up	
Year 5/6	8:40 Normal Gate – children walking round to classrooms and entering through classroom doors. No parents beyond gate.	3:10 6NW/ 5RB – Middle Gate 5/6SC, 5/6SJ – Normal Gate	The school car park layby will be kept clear of cars at the end of the school day to allow parents to wait, if necessary, for children to exit the building.
Year 3/4	8:50 Normal Gate - children walking round to classrooms and entering through classroom doors. No parents beyond gate. Dosbarth HG using the classroom door at the front of the school.	3:00 3RA/ 4SW – Normal Gate Dosbarth HG – Class door	
Year 1/2	8:50 One way - Normal way in with children taken straight through the Nursery playground onto the main playground and round to the respective classes. One parent per child. Social distancing of 2 metres. Exit via the large playground gate. Dosbarth Pinc using the middle entrance at the front of the school.	2:50 Normal way in with parents walking straight through the Nursery playground and straight to class, remaining on the playground on the other side of the fence. One parent per child. Social distancing adhered to. Dosbarth Pinc using the middle entrance at the front of the school.	With parents exiting via the large playground gate, the car park road to it will be kept clear.
Reception	9:00 Yellow Class One way - Normal way in with children taken straight through the Nursery playground and straight to class. One parent per child. Social distancing of 2 metres. Exit via the large playground gate. 9:00 Dosbarth Gwyrdd One way - Normal way in with children taken straight through the Nursery playground onto the main playground and round to the class door. One parent per child. Social distancing of 2 metres. Exit via the large playground gate.		

Members of staff will be on duty to supervise this at the start and end of each day at the front of the school.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following are responses to concerns and questions raised in the Return to School survey. Please note that the answers are based on current guidance as of 15th June 2020. Changes may occur as further guidance and directives are received from Welsh Government or the Local Authority.

I'm a parent / guardian who is shielding. Do I send my child / children back to school at the end of June?

If you are a shielding parent or guardian, there is no expectation to send your child / children back to school at the end of June. Parents won't be fined for keeping their child / children at home. These children will continue to be supported by their schools in different ways.

My child is shielding. Will they have to return to school at the end of June?

If your child is shielding they should not return to school at the end of June or use the opportunity of these check-in sessions. Shielded children will continue to be supported by their schools in different ways.

Will parents be fined if they do not send their child to school?

During this time parents won't be fined for keeping their child / children at home. These children will continue to be supported by their schools in different ways.

What date is the October half-term break?

We are working to determine the date for the additional week on the October half-term break and will ensure it is communicated as soon as possible.

Will online learning continue for our children when schools reopen?

When schools reopen, teachers will be back in school everyday teaching their own class in small groups of children (no more than 8 at any one time). On the days when your children are back in school they will receive as close to normal education as possible. When they are at home on the other days, they will be set home learning tasks to complete, extending the work they have covered in school.

There will be a blended approach meaning that teachers will also provide online learning work for children who are unable to come to school as they have been medically advised to shield and children who are not returning to school yet as parents don't feel the time is quite right.

That said, please bear in mind that teachers are no longer home focussing solely on providing distance learning every day but instead are back in school full-time. They will do their best to continue providing work but this is likely to look different from the online learning your children have received to date.

Children who are attending the childcare Hub for key workers and vulnerable children will continue to receive childcare and not a formally structured day.

What is the cleaning regime at Golden Grove School?

As with the need to maintain good personal hygiene to hamper the spread of the virus, the importance of cleanliness and appropriate cleaning regimes in school settings cannot be over emphasised.

In line with the guidance we will adhere to the following principles wherever possible:

- Staff will wipe any personal items e.g. mobile phones, tablets, reading glasses, pens etc. with disinfectant/alcohol wipes.
- Where possible, classroom doors will be propped open so as to prevent the touching of door-handles, and windows opened to allow a free-flow of air through the building; however, these measures will only be implemented if they do not compromise Safeguarding and Fire Safety arrangements.
- Before entering a classroom, all pupils and members of staff will thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water.
- Classroom furniture will be kept to a minimum and that other items of equipment remaining in the classroom are easy to clean/disinfect.
- High use surfaces will be cleaned and wiped down every 2 hours.
- Pupils, and staff, should have ownership of their stationary and not share with others.
- The staff will remove soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean.
- All toys/equipment will be cleaned after each use/end of play session before placing back into storage.
- A deep cleaning fogging machine is also being purchased for the school.

Will siblings or children's friendships groups be in at the same time?

We are unable to guarantee that siblings or particular friendship groups come to the school at the same time. This was not made a priority by Welsh Government and the Local Authority have made it clear that they do not want schools to try and manage this. The priority is to ensure that all pupils are able to 'check in' with their school on a regular basis. However, we will try our best to ensure siblings are in school together and that the 'bubble' groups will consider friendship groups.

Will staff be wearing masks and gloves or other forms of PPE?

There is no direct requirement from Welsh Government for staff to wear PPE, unless dealing with incidents requiring close contact e.g. first aid, assisting with toileting etc. In these instances, the main forms of PPE used would include disposable aprons, gowns and gloves. These will be changed immediately following the care episode or the task undertaken.

Eye/face protection e.g. surgical mask or full face shield/visor will be worn by staff when there is a risk of contamination to the eyes, or inhalation, from splashing of secretions (including respiratory secretions), blood, body fluids and excretions.

Is the school aiming to be back to normal set up after summer holidays?

I'm afraid we can't say. We await updates from Welsh Government, just like you do. It appears that we get information from the Education Minister at the same time. It is unlikely that school will be entirely back to normal in September but there will continue to be a phased approach that is continually moving forward.

What about Year 6 transition to secondary schools?

We are working with the secondary schools to ensure that Year 6 transition takes place as we feel that it is very important. However, the secondary schools have their own challenges at the moment so we will wait to hear what their plans are regarding transition and we will let you know.

We will do all we can to make sure that Year 6 have a really good last few weeks in Golden Grove School and try to make it as special as possible.

Will the children be allowed to have play outside for their wellbeing?

Yes, there will plenty of opportunities for children to play outside. Pupils will interact with each other within their 'bubbles', and the 'bubbles' will consist of pupils from within their own class. Break times and lunchtimes will be staggered

What actions are being taken to promote social interaction?

Each child will be given their own learning space, with their individual resources. At the forefront of everything we do is each child's well-being – ensuring they feel happy and safe. Whilst we all adhere to social distancing guidelines, we will be promoting social interaction through introducing new routines which will allow the children to move safely within their bubble. Areas will be carefully set up both inside and outside the classroom to allow opportunities for activities such as painting, small world, construction etc... Social distancing is easier to observe and maintain outside, therefore we will be using the outdoors as much as possible. This will be demonstrated in our virtual tour of the school.

Can we decide at a later date for our child to come back during the 4 weeks re-opening?

I would hope that during the 4 weeks that we are back at school, we will see most of our pupils return. I understand it is difficult to decide whether to send your child to school without all the facts, plans and guidance. We will endeavour to make sure that any family who wish their child/ren to return at any point during the 4 weeks has an opportunity to do so.

Are pupils expected to bring their own stationary?

No, they are not. We have been advised that children are to bring as few items from home as possible to reduce possible virus transfer.

Will toys be removed from classrooms?

Provision will be made for resources within each bubble group to be kept to a minimum. These resources will be enhanced in order to cater for individual preferences and set challenges. As previously stated, each child will have individual resources which will reduce the risk of cross-contamination. These will be appropriately sterilised in accordance with guidance after use. **Children will not be permitted to bring toys to school from home.**

Will lunch be provided for pupils?

A hot meal will be offered and we would encourage you to allow your child to have school dinners in order to lessen items being brought to school.

Will there be a breakfast club?

This will be limited to key worker families only, and will be assessed on a case by case application.

Will there be an after-school club provision?

This will be limited to key worker families only, and will be assessed on a case by case application.

Can we choose the days we would like our children to attend?

We would encourage any key worker families/ working families to request the days their child/ren come to school. They will need to apply and book their place through the PCC website by Thursday 18th June at 5.00pm. Please only request this provision if there is no alternative care available. There will be no choice on the days offered for 'bubble' days as, out of necessity, this needs to be planned by us in school.

And finally;

The answers to the questions above are based on the most recent guidance from WG and LA.

Finally, we would like to re-assure all those families requesting that their child/ren return to school from Monday, 29th June, that the safety and well-being of ALL pupils and staff is paramount. Every decision made, every plan and procedure put into place will always have the safety and well-being of every child and member of staff at its heart. This will be the 'new normal' for some time and we must ensure that it is fit for purpose and minimises risk to all.

THE STAFF AND GOVERNORS OF THE SCHOOL ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO ENSURE A HAPPY AND SAFE RETURN FOR ALL. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING ALL PUPILS BACK TO THE SCHOOL FROM MONDAY 29TH JUNE.