



YSGOL GYFUN DŴR Y FELIN

DŴR Y FELIN COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Transition Information for Year 7 September 2021

WELCOME/CROESO

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Dŵr y Felin School. We hope you enjoyed the transition days this week. The behaviour of all pupils was exemplary. We are looking forward to meeting all pupils again in September.



In this Newsletter, we will outline information for new entrants as well as specific information for September 2021. There may be changes to the plans for September and we advise that you regularly check the school website (<http://dwryfelinschool.org>), follow us on Twitter (@dwryfelin) and on Facebook for the latest information.

At the heart of all thinking and decision making regarding the school is the safety of ALL pupils, staff and their families. The emphasis on good standards of hygiene, social distancing and cleanliness is PARAMOUNT.

To support year 7 pupils, we will have an Induction Day dedicated to the new entrants on **Monday 6th September**. All staff will be available to help pupils familiarise themselves with the school environment and procedures. Pupils must arrive by **8.25am**. Pupils

can use either entrance (Cwrt Herbert or Dŵr y Felin Road), where they will be met by staff who tell them where to go. The school day will end at **3.00pm**.

Pupils will need to wear full uniform (requirements outlined later in the Newsletter). We are anticipating that there will still be strict guidance around social distancing and hygiene. It is very important for the safety of all pupils, staff and our families that we adhere to these rules. Pupils will need to bring a snack, a water bottle and essential school equipment.

Thank you for your time and support. A reminder that Mr England will be the Head of Year 7. Mrs Thomas is the Assistant Headteacher who supports pupils with additional learning needs. Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at the above contact details.

We look forward to working with you over the coming years to ensure your child excels at Dŵr y Felin.

Best wishes. Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Peet
Headteacher

SCHOOL PROVISION



HYGIENE

All pupils and staff will be expected to follow guidance around hand washing. We must all wash our hands and sanitise them before leaving home and on entry into school. We have soap in all toilets and sanitiser at many stations, including entrances, stairwells and main areas. Everyone is advised to avoid touching their faces. Each classroom will be equipped with a hand sanitiser, box of tissues and cleaning resources.

SAFETY & PPE

All pupils and staff will obey **social distancing** rules at all times. Pupils must follow the new one-way system in each building. We will follow Welsh Government guidelines for PPE. Currently, all pupils in secondary schools are required to wear Face Coverings in schools. This may be in the classroom and or in communal areas. We will clarify the position as soon as possible.

CLEANING

We have increased the number of cleaners employed and the school will be deep cleaned prior to opening. There will be two cleaners on site every day. The school will be cleaned daily in line with Welsh Government Guidance.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

At Dŵr y Felin we feel that our smart uniform is an important part of creating the correct attitude and atmosphere for learning. Below is a list of the uniform that will be required for your child's start at school. We are aware that the purchasing of uniform may be difficult, however Bergoni (<https://www.bergoni.co.uk>) and Macron (<https://macronstoreneath.co.uk>) are available online and have delivery / collection options.

Girls' Uniform

Navy blazer with school badge.

Plain black skirt (knee length) or black school-type trousers. (JEANS or LEGGINGS ARE NOT ALLOWED)

White shirt – tucked in.

Navy v-necked school jumper with school badge. No alternative jumper is acceptable.

School tie.

Outdoor coat

Black shoes with sensible heels – Training shoes are allowed if they are black.

Boys' Uniform

Navy blazer with school badge.

Black school-type trousers (JEANS or LEGGINGS ARE NOT ALLOWED)

White shirt – tucked in.

Navy v-necked school jumper with school badge. No alternative jumper is acceptable.

School tie.

Outdoor coat

Black shoes – Training shoes are allowed if they are black.



PE KIT

Girls

Blue school PE T-shirt (with school badge)
Navy ¼ zip sweatshirt (with school badge)
Navy / Black Tracksuit bottoms/ leggings
Blue and yellow school shorts
Trainers for the gym or tennis/netball courts

Boys

Blue school PE T-shirt (with school badge)
Navy ¼ zip sweatshirt (with school badge)
Rugby jersey – royal blue reversible with yellow
Royal blue football socks with two gold hoops
Blue and yellow school shorts
Rugby boots
Trainers for indoor use or on hard surfaces

Families may be able to access grants to support them with school meals and uniform. The information can be accessed via the Neath Port Talbot Website:

<https://www.npt.gov.uk/1544>

Essential Equipment

Suitable school bag	Pencils
Black or blue pens	Ruler
Red pen	Rubber
Scientific Calculator	Sharpener
Geometry set	Coloured pencils
Glue Stick	Technology Apron

ONLINE CASHLESS SYSTEM

At Dŵr y Felin we operate a payment system for all school activities and resources. ParentPay provides an online provision for paying for your child's lunches, trips etc. To access this facility, you should have been issued with a log in and password. For further details visit www.parentpay.com. The "Cashless System" for meals is provided by Civica Retail Systems Ltd who have many years of expertise working within schools. You can add 'credit' to your child's account on line or using PayPoint

in a local shop. Currently, pupils are unable to upload money to their account in school. Pupils pay using either their thumb "code" or a payment card.

CATERING

We are widening our catering offer and further details will follow. Pupils are able to purchase snacks during the morning breaktimes and a range of meals and "Grab and Go" sandwiches and Paninis at lunchtimes. The pupils can purchase water during break and lunchtime. We will be increasing the offer of meals available during the school year.

ATTENDANCE

As a school we recognise the importance of good attendance. Good attendance has been linked directly to helping pupils achieve their potential. Our aim is for all pupils to achieve a minimum of **94.6%** attendance. The school endeavours to phone all absentees daily, if possible. It would be appreciated if you could inform us of any illness by telephoning the school office before 8.20am. Alternatively, an absence note is required whenever your child has been absent from school.

FIRST AID

A first aider will always be in school. Parents will be contacted to inform them of any treatment and asked to collect pupils where appropriate. This particularly applies to pupils with cuts or open wounds. It will also be important that we have detailed records of any medical and specific health needs your child may have which require an "Individual Health Care Plan". Please contact Mrs Helen Williams (First Aider) to arrange a convenient time to complete the plan together. Individual "Medical Cards" will also be issued to pupils at a later date.

VISITORS

Visitors to the site will be strictly limited. Where possible, all contact with parents and families will be made via telephone, email, text and sims app. Parents will need to make appointments for a meeting and will need to wear face coverings when on site.

How Can I Help as a Parent?

When children start secondary school, they have to cope with a whole variety of new experiences and changes, many of which demand skills and abilities that they have not had to use before. The problem is that these skills do not automatically develop in children before they begin secondary school – like reading and writing, they have to be taught and our children need support in developing them.

Most parents would like to prepare them for these changes, and support them in developing the skills they need, but feel they lack the information and expertise to do so. For many of us our own experience of secondary school is all we have to go on.

The main concerns that Year 6 children express are being bullied and not making friends. Fortunately, most children report that they are no longer worried about these after the first week or two!

If your child is concerned about these issues it is useful to tell them this, and to stress that everyone else will also be feeling anxious. As there will be far more children in Year 7 than in Year 6, everyone has the opportunity to make new friends, and even children who move up with several children from their class tend to make new friends at secondary school.

It is also useful to help them organise themselves for the school day. Knowing how to get to school and having the correct equipment, gives pupils greater confidence when starting a new school.

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS

	Term Begins	Mid Term Holiday		Term Ends
Autumn Term 2021	Thursday 2nd September	Monday 25th October	Friday 29th October	Friday 17th December
Spring Term 2022	Tuesday 4th January	Monday 21st February	Friday 25th February	Friday 8th April
Summer Term 2022	Monday 25th April	Monday 30th May	Friday 3rd June	Friday 22nd July

Bank Holidays

Queen's Jubilee	Friday 26th November 2021
Good Friday	Friday 15th April 2022
Easter Monday	Monday 18th April 2022
May Bank Holiday	Monday 2nd May 2022
Spring Bank Holiday	Monday 30th May 2022

INSET Days 2021-22

2 September 2021
3 September 2021
24 September 2021
28 February 2022
16 June 2022
17 June 2022

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

The school will reopen to **pupils from Monday 6th September**. To help with transition, there will be one day for year 7 and 11 pupils only. **ALL** pupils must attend from school **Tuesday 7th September**. Please see the table below to find out when your child needs to be in school.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Monday 6th September	START OF TERM				START OF TERM
Tuesday 7th September	DAY 2	START OF TERM	START OF TERM	START OF TERM	DAY 2

Operational Guidance for Schools in Wales

Last Friday, the Welsh Government produced their updated guidance for schools to cover the start of the Autumn Term. This is provisional information that will be confirmed by the beginning of September. Some of the main changes include the removal of “contact bubbles”. This is a welcome change, which gives greater opportunities to class structures and planning the curriculum. We will publish any late changes on the website and will share information with you via text or the Sims Parent App.

Attendance and Punctuality

There will be no longer be a staggered start and end to the school day. All pupils must arrive in school by 8:25am for Form Period at 8.30am. The school day will finish at 3:00pm. Your assistance and cooperation in ensuring that your children attend school regularly and are punctual are greatly appreciated. Lateness undoubtedly affects teaching and learning and we take pride in achieving the best possible outcomes for your children.

Timings of the school day

Despite the removal of staggered start and end times to the school day, the staff and pupils feel that the staggered break times and lunchtimes have been a positive outcome of the last year. They feel the changes have helped reduce the queues in the Canteen and Caffi'r Felin and have given pupils more outdoor and indoor space. Therefore, we will continue to set break within lesson 2 and lunch within lesson 4. (See times below)

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
8.25 am	Arrive	Arrive	Arrive	Arrive	Arrive
8.30 am	Form Period				
8.50 am	Lesson 1				
9.50 am	Break	Lesson 2	Lesson 2	Lesson 2	Break
10.10 am	Lesson 2				
10.30 am	Lesson 2				
10.50 am	Lesson 2	Break	Break	Break	Lesson 2
11.10 am	Lesson 3				
12.10 pm	Lunch	Lesson 4	Lesson 4	Lesson 4	Lunch
1.00 pm	Lesson 4				
1.10 pm	Lesson 4	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lesson 4
2.00 pm	Lesson 5				
3.00 pm	Depart	Depart	Depart	Depart	Depart

All year groups will attend lessons in line with their normal timetable. While we are endeavouring to ensure your child's education can resume as normally as possible, we will continue to implement hand hygiene measures, social distancing where appropriate and advise pupils on the new regulations to keep us all safe. We are awaiting confirmation regarding the wearing of Face Coverings in classrooms, but expect the need for us all to continue to wear Face Coverings in communal areas such as corridors and canteens.

THE SIMS PARENT APP EASY ACCESS TO IMPORTANT SCHOOL INFORMATION



At Dŵr y Felin, we use the SIMS parent app and website to share information with you about your child's school life. The parents who are currently using the facility say how well the system works to inform them about their child's progress.

The system allows you to conveniently access information from a smartphone, tablet or PC – anytime, anywhere. The information that you receive through the app will help you to stay up-to-date with your child's school life as well as support your child's development and progress. If you have more than one child at school, you will have access to information for all your children, from the same app.

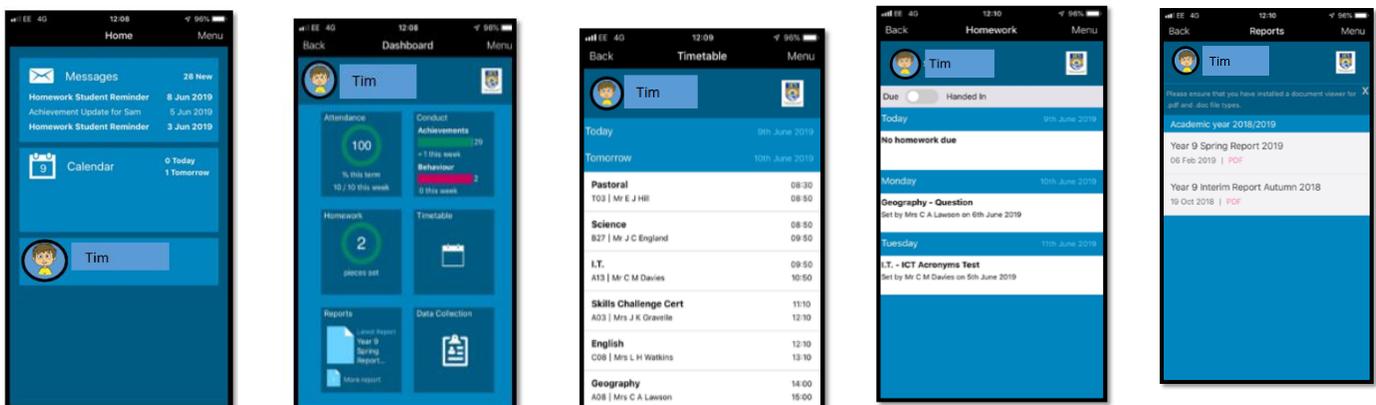
The parent app will allow you to easily access information regarding:

- Your child's timetable, attendance, behaviour and homework;
- School term, inset dates and contact details available at the click of a button;
- Your child's school report;
- Your contact details, so we always have the most up-to-date information in case of emergency.

Getting started with the SIMS Parent app

1. We will send you an activation email. Simply click on the link from your tablet, PC or smartphone to activate your account.
2. You can then login using your normal **Facebook, Twitter, Google** or **Microsoft** username and password.
3. From your smartphone or tablet, download the app from the Google Play or Apple App store - search for **SIMS Parent**.

From a PC or Windows phone, login online at www.sims-parent.co.uk



Start of Academic Year
September 2021