



## **Returning to School Document for Parents/Carers (February 2021)**

We appreciate that you may be anxious about your child(ren) returning to school. We have updated these guidelines to help prepare yourselves and pupils returning to school.

Classrooms will once again welcome all Foundation Phase (Nursery – Year 2) pupils to return. While we have removed any unnecessary items in the classroom, they are by no means sparse and empty and we will provide pupils with stationery and resources to use during the school day. We will continue to ask that pupils refrain from bringing in unnecessary items from home and that they only attend with the minimum that they need (i.e. drink bottle and snack, a packed lunch if not school dinners, coat, hat etc). As we are expecting low temperatures this term, please ensure that your child brings their jumper and coat to school every day, as classrooms continue to be ventilated naturally in line with published guidance.

Welsh Government guidance has stated that social distancing for younger age pupils is not expected, but we will continue to minimise face to face contact time and transmission risk across the school setting. A contact group in Bro Ogwr will be recognised as the whole year group, due to the design of some classrooms and areas and the shared toilet facilities. Shared toilets have designated cubicles for any year groups that share the facilities. During the lunch period, two contact groups will be using the same hall but on separate tables with a 2m distance between them. Only one year group will be outside at one time for break and lunchtime play times.

### **Start and End of Day Procedures**

BCBC Breakfast Club provision is not offered at this time. The Princess Way entrance gate will remain open for access, but please follow the arrows which will highlight a designated 'keep to the left' route. We aim to continue with a one-way system on the school yard and we would appreciate it if you could please follow the signs and floor markings.

Pupils are requested to be accompanied to school to arrive between 08.50 and 09.00 and will walk straight to class, where staff will be there to welcome them, in order to help facilitate hand washing upon arrival. We will continue to encourage parents/carers to drop off either at the Nursery gate or Princess Way gate and pupils will walk to class independently with staff along all routes and yard to supervise.

Collection will be as usual from the 3 different yards. Please follow the one-way system and then socially distance on the yard in order for staff to see you clearly and for you to receive your child(ren) safely. Please ask any member of school staff if you are unsure of what to do on arrival at school.

Face coverings should be worn by all parents / carers during drop off and collection. It would also help us greatly if you could try to limit the adults on site for drop-off and collection to one parent/carer, which will help with social distancing.

### **Attendance**

All pupils are required to return to school when schools re-open for pupils; if your child is unable to return to school on the advice of a healthcare practitioner due to a documented medical reason, please contact the school to discuss how we will support your child during this time.

Welsh Government guidance is as follows:

Under no circumstances should learners attend schools/settings if they:

- feel unwell, have any of the three identified COVID-19 symptoms (a new continuous cough, or a high temperature or loss of or change to their sense of taste or smell) or they have tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 7 days

- live in a household or are part of an extended household with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

Symptomatic pupils will be isolated immediately and parents/carers immediately contacted to collect their children. **Please make every effort to ensure that your contact details are accurate and up-to-date on the SIMS Parent App** or via the school office.

Please keep our school safe, by following the above guidance.

In order for Foundation Phase pupils to return to school safely, we will ensure that:

### Preparation

- All health and safety compliance checks have been undertaken
- The building has been cleaned by BCBC Cleaning Services
- We continue with the extra cleaning during the school day
- Floor markings will be in place highlighting direction of travel
- Guidance reminders are accessible in communal and classroom areas
- Appropriate PPE will be available in the isolation area within the school for suspected Covid-19 cases and at appropriate places around the school in terms of intimate care of pupils, where needed

### Daily Operations

- Breaks and Lunch will be staggered to reduce crowding
- The hall will be organised and timetabled for lunchtime to incorporate contact groups with a minimum amount of face to face contact time
- The fruit 'tuck' shop will **not** be available until further notice – pupils may bring their own healthy fruit snack for break times
- Parents/carers are asked to provide easy-to-open packed lunch options
- Pupils will be asked to take any packed lunch waste home with them
- Collective worship will be facilitated through either class assemblies and reflection or limited to contact groups only in a shared space

### In the Classroom

In order for all users of the school to use the classroom effectively, we will ensure that:

- Classrooms have been configured to accommodate all pupils
- Classrooms will limit face to face contact in older pupils
- Staff and pupils will be asked to minimise items 'brought in' to school
- Activities have been planned to maximise the use of outdoor areas
- Timetables are flexible and can be adjusted where necessary
- All staff will reinforce and regularly remind pupils of hand washing routine on arrival, after eating and following a cough or sneeze, after handling shared equipment, following physical contact, before and after handling food and before and after visiting the toilets
- Staff will be assigned to the same contact groups, where possible
- A minimum of two windows will be open in all classrooms every day to allow for consistent natural ventilation
- Sanitising spray, wipes and antibacterial gel will be available in all classrooms and offices each day
- Separate bins with mechanical lids have been placed in each classroom specifically for the disposal of used tissues
- Staff and pupils will be reminded of the importance of not sharing equipment

- Desks, chairs and other equipment will be sanitised/cleaned at the end of each day
- Resources removed from the school will be limited e.g reading books only

### **Monitoring**

These arrangements and procedures are subject to change as operations are monitored and reviewed over time. Any changes or amendments, if required, will be communicated to parents as quickly as possible.

We hope that the information listed above will help you prepare for your children to return to us after half term and we very much look forward to seeing our younger learners returning to school.

Best Wishes

Bro Ogwr Staff