



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

We hope that you all had a peaceful summer break and welcome you back to YG Bro Ogwr for the Autumn Term. Please find below updated guidelines to help prepare yourselves and pupils returning to school.

We 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). Classrooms will continue to be ventilated naturally in line with published guidance with open windows and doors and we ask to please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing based on weather conditions. This includes sunhats and suncream if warm temperatures are predicted, as well as layers/raincoats if we are expecting adverse weather.

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

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 and to help facilitate hand washing upon arrival. Please continue to drop your child/ren off either at the Nursery gate or Princess Way gate; pupils will walk to class independently with staff along all routes and yard to supervise. We will 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.

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. We would appreciate if you could continue to wear a face covering while on school grounds and limit the number of adults collecting in order to minimise risk of transmission.

Please continue to park safely and legally using the ample on-street parking surrounding the school site, avoiding any obvious no parking/stopping road markings and junctions. At the end of last term we saw a sudden increase in the number of parents/carers stopping directly outside the school entrance gate, which causes a hazard and may make the area unsafe for our children, parents, staff and visitors.

### **Attendance**

Under Welsh Government guidance, under no circumstances should learners attend schools/settings if they:

- **feel unwell, have any of the three identified COVID-19 cardinal 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 10 days**

In the rare event of a pupil presenting symptoms whilst on site, the pupil will be isolated and parents/carers immediately contacted to collect their child. **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, ensuring that you provide at least one contact who can be reached during a normal school day.

Welsh Government guidance has stated that whole class or year group isolation for pupils is now not required in the event of a positive case within the school community. Track and Trace will contact any positive case directly to request details of and contact identified 'close contacts'. This will no longer be handled at school level. Please continue to follow advice given by Track and Trace in the event that your child tests positive for COVID-19.

### **Daily Operations / Classroom**

We continue to minimise transmission risk across the school setting. Pupils are not required to wear face coverings but are welcome to wear them if they wish to, ensuring good hand hygiene prior to wearing and removing a face covering. Some of our operational arrangements are listed below for your information:

- Breaks and Lunch will be staggered to reduce crowding and risk of transmission - during the lunch period, two year groups will be using the same hall but on separate tables with a 2m distance between them
- The fruit 'tuck' shop will not be available until further notice – pupils may bring their own healthy fruit snack for break times (please ensure any small items such as grapes/cherry tomatoes are thinly quartered and any containers clearly labelled with your child's name)
- 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
- Assemblies, Singing and Celebration Gatherings will re-commence with a maximum of two year groups using the shared space, with 2m distancing in place
- Two year groups will be outside for break and lunchtime play times, separated by a 2m distance between them
- 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 year groups, where possible
- Windows and doors 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.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best Wishes

Bro Ogwr Staff