

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils

### **Return to School: 29th June 2020**

We hope you and your families are all keeping well, maintaining good spirits and staying safe.

The Director of Education wrote to you on the 26<sup>th</sup> June to confirm that the last day of this school term for pupils in Swansea schools will now be Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July as originally planned. As there had been no national agreement with the trade unions for the planned additional week and to ensure consistency across Swansea schools, in line with a large number of other local authorities Swansea Local Authority will close all schools for the summer on 17<sup>th</sup> July.

Here at Pen y Bryn we have been busy planning for our return albeit with a significantly reduced capacity. As we near our return I would like to clarify some important operational matters that will be vital in ensuring we do everything we can to mitigate the risks involved in returning to school. The risks associated with corona virus have not gone away and we must all be mindful of the need to follow all of the points listed below:

- Maintain good hygiene, hand-washing and social distancing. The latter may be challenging for our pupils so please help us by advising your children of the need to keep safe distances between themselves, their friends and staff.
- Do not send your child to school if they or anyone in the household is exhibiting any symptoms of Covid-19 (new and persistent cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell)
- Ensure your child eats breakfast before coming to school as breakfast cannot be provided in school.
- Ensure your child brings a packed lunch, water or drinks bottle and snack in a clearly labelled, wipe clean, container or bag as food cannot be provided in school.
- Do not bring pens, toys or books (including home/school planner) to school. Materials will be provided for individual use and phone calls will be used to facilitate any communications that would normally be conducted via pupil planners.
- If you are transporting your child to and from school, please wait in your vehicle until asked to exit.
- Ensure your child wears freshly laundered, clean clothes to school (uniform is not essential).

This is a time of great uncertainty for us all. School will be different, your child may not be in their usual classroom and whichever classroom they are in it will look and feel different. The number of pupils and staff in classes and indeed school is significantly limited, movement around the school will be minimal and break and lunchtimes will be different and possibly at different times. These steps have been essential to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff. We understand some of you and your children may feel apprehensive about the return but please rest assured that we will be here, on hand, and in regular communication to ensure the final three weeks of the summer term enable our wonderful pupils to have a small opportunity to 'check in and catch up' before the end of this very different academic year.

You will soon be contacted by phone to confirm your child's day of attendance. The table below provides a guide.

Pupils will return to school according to the following rota:

Pupils	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Foundation Primary	At home distance learning	At home distance learning	In School	At home distance learning	At home distance learning
			At home distance learning	In School	
KS3	In School	At home distance learning	At home distance learning	At home distance learning	At home distance learning
	At home distance learning	In School			
KS4	At home distance learning	At home distance learning	In School	At home distance learning	At home distance learning
			At home distance learning	In School	
Sixth Form	In School	At home distance learning	At home distance learning	At home distance learning	At home distance learning
	At home distance learning	In School			

*E.G. The table above illustrates that KS3 pupils will all be at home Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Half of the pupils in KS3 will be in school Monday and at home Tuesday with the other half of KS3 pupils at home on Monday and in school Tuesday.*

We know that some of you may be anxious about sending your child back to us and that there will also be pupils who are nervous. We will work together as a school community to support and reassure them, whatever their concerns. We have missed them and very much look forward to seeing them again soon.

Take care and stay safe.

The very warmest of wishes

Gethin Sutton