

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils

Return to School: 29th June 2020

We hope you and your families are all safe and well.

The Director of Education wrote to you last week and we are now able to give you more details regarding our arrangements for the final four weeks of the summer term, as we had received further guidance from the Welsh Government. As you know, the Education Minister outlined that schools in Wales could partially open from June 29th to July 27th, if it was safe to do so. Our priority in this process has been to ensure the safety and well-being of learners and staff. We believe that we can reopen safely but, when we return, school will look very different, with pupils continuing with a blend of distance learning alongside some contact time in school. Welsh Government has said that they expect this model to continue for the foreseeable future, possibly into September and the autumn term.

The risks associated with corona virus have not gone away and we must all be mindful of the need to maintain good hygiene, hand-washing and social distancing. As such, we will have to limit the number of pupils and staff in attendance each day. We will also have to limit the ways in which pupils and staff interact during the course of the school day. These steps will be essential if we are to ensure the safety and wellbeing of learners and staff. We will be able to invite no more than a third of our pupils into school on any one day. Pupils should expect to attend school for one day each week.

Movement around the school will be limited to what is necessary. Understandably, some of you may feel apprehensive about the risks. However, it is important to remember that, with adherence to guidelines, the risks will be minimised. Of course, it will not be safe for some learners and staff to attend (i.e. those who have received shielding letters and anyone with symptoms of corona virus).

The unique layout of our school means that we believe the school can safely return by accommodating half of a key stage group at a time in each of our lower and upper blocks, keeping pupils in small 'bubbles' within class groups. There will be two 'bubbles' per class group. This will ensure that both staff and pupils are exposed to as few people as possible, therefore minimising risk. We will be running a Check in, Catch up and Prepare recovery curriculum which will focus on supporting pupils' wellbeing and helping them to develop the resilience and independence they need for this new blended learning.

Parents/carers must confirm their child's attendance prior to their designated day in school; we will contact you each week. To ensure the safety of the school community pupils will not be accommodated without prior arrangement, so it is vital that you let us know in advance. Whilst we already have an idea of numbers from our initial survey, we can now share further details with you to help you with your decision making.

School Meals

While this is the responsibility of the Local Authority (LA), I need to make you aware that there will be no canteen facilities available in school for the 4 weeks that we are back in school, for either pupils or staff. All pupils and staff will be expected to bring their own snacks and drinks for break and

lunch. Pupils who receive free school meals will continue to have the delivery to their homes or BACS payment.

School Transport

Whilst school transport is also the responsibility of the LA and not the school, I know that this will be an important factor in the decision making for some parents and carers. The LA has made it clear that, where possible, there is an expectation that parents and carers will transport their own children to school; school transport may be available, but cannot be guaranteed as services are greatly reduced and subject to specific assessment of risk for those who use it. Please let us know if you are able to transport your child to and from school.

School timings

The school day will start at 9:00am and end at 3:00pm. Staff will be in attendance to greet pupils and ensure social distancing is maintained. The school will have a thorough clean at the end of each day and will be closed for a focused clean on Friday.

Key organisational points

When considering organisation, we have taken account of current guidance from WG and Swansea LA. Logistics may need to alter if guidance changes over the coming weeks. A full corona virus risk assessment has been completed.

Cohort 'bubbles'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each child will be given the opportunity to attend one day per week for each of the 4 weeks. • Parents will be informed individually, to avoid GDPR issues, about the day their child can attend for their check in session each week. • This day will remain the same on each of the 4 weeks. • At all times, children will remain in the same pupil group each week to avoid cross contamination. • All cohort bubbles will be with the same members of staff where possible during the day.
Medical Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with shielding letters must not attend school. • Public Health Wales guidelines will be followed for all vulnerable groups. If you are unsure if your child should attend, please follow the advice in the guidelines. • Any child showing symptoms will be immediately isolated and will have to be collected from school.
Parent/carers' drop off/pick up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only one adult to escort children to drop off/pick up • Should you arrive early, remain in your car until your allocated time slot to avoid groups forming. • Adhere to the social distancing when waiting to be allowed into school • No parents will enter the school with their children, except in exceptional circumstances.
Time in school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The focus is on pupil well being. • The day will NOT be like a typical school day

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities will focus on checking in with staff, well-being and re settling pupils into the school environment • Many activities, weather permitting, will take place outside. This will also reduce transference. • Home Learning will continue whether your child is attending school or not. • Staff will continue to support home learning. • Break and lunchtimes may be staggered during the day. • Each child will need to provide or be provided with their own equipment pack which only they will use when in school. • Children must not bring in unnecessary bags or toys. • There will be no residential unit or After School Club provision for the 4 weeks.
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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 hope this information will help you to make an informed decision about your child returning to school. 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. This is understandable. We will work together as a school community to support and reassure them, whether they have concerns about their safety, wellbeing or academic studies. We have missed them and look forward to seeing them again.

Take care and stay safe.

The very warmest of wishes

Gethin Sutton