

Growing and Learning Together through the Love of Christ.

Friday 12th February 2021

Annwyl/Dear Parents and Carers,

Once again, we are living in very difficult times and we have really missed seeing all the children. Christmas seems such a long time ago! I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to each and every one of you for the support you have given your children with their home learning. We fully understand how difficult it is to manage your home/work lives whilst juggling home learning and attending live lessons. You and your children have been amazing over the past six weeks – diolch yn fawr and da iawn pawb.

**Arrangements after half-term**

**Key Stage 2:**

Our KS2 teachers will continue with the Blended Learning offer and provide home learning for four days per week starting on **Monday 22nd February**. They will be staffing our KS2 hub and having PPA on the fifth day.

If your child currently attends the **KS2 hub**, this will also continue after half term. The hub will start at **8:45 a.m.** and finish at **3:00 p.m.** and your children will enter and exit (unaccompanied) via the main gate. Please note that Breakfast Club will still be available from **8:30 a.m.** but your children will need to enter the school via the red door entrance near the turning circle (not the main entrance).

**Foundation Phase:**

We are very much looking forward to welcoming back all our pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 on **Tuesday 23rd February.** Your children may feel a little apprehensive returning to school so please take time to reassure them if this is the case. We have strict measures in place to ensure that all staff and pupils are as safe as possible which are as follows:

* Children will be kept in class ‘contact groups’ of around 25 pupils.
* Staff will wear face masks throughout the day.
* Each ‘contact group’ will not be able to mix with other ‘contact groups’ in the school.
* Children will still be encouraged to regularly wash their hands for at least 20 seconds throughout the day.
* We will use our school grounds to their full extent.
* Every child will have their own separate stationery pack and books.
* There will be staggered start/finish times, break times and lunch times.

We will not be checking the temperature of the children, as they walk through the school grounds but we insist that you do **not** to send your child to school if they have **any** of the following symptoms:

* a high temperature
* a new, continuous cough
* loss of smell or taste

**Anyone displaying symptoms must stay at home and arrange to be tested. Anyone who lives with someone displaying symptoms but remains well should stay at home for at least 10 days from the day the first person became ill.**

All classes will enter and exit from their external doors. The start times and finish times will be as follows:

**Year 2: Start time 8:45 a.m. & finish time 3:00 p.m.**

**Years R and Year 1: Start time 9:00 a.m. & finish time 3:15 p.m.**

All year groups will be kept separate, with limited movement around the school except for toileting and lunch. Each ‘contact group’ will use a separate toilet in FP with regular cleaning in between. Breaks and outdoor learning will be timetabled to ensure that class ‘contact groups’ do not mix.

We would ask that only **one** parent (and no other siblings if possible) escort the pupils on site and please wear face masks at all times (unless you are exempt). Year 1 and Year 2 pupils will be met on the Infant Yard and escorted into their classes via the external doors. Reception parents will line up outside the Reception area as before.

Please can we ask all parents to leave the site as quickly and safely as possible after dropping their children off (and adhere to strict social distancing rules at all times). At the end of each day, the children will be brought back to these areas of the yard in Years 1 and 2 for collection. All paths around the close proximity of the school will be closed to ALL parents and children, as they are too narrow to ensure social distancing. The incline gate will operate as a two way system but please give way to parents/children entering the school grounds. The main gate will be ‘enter only’ and the bus stop gate will be ‘exit only’. To avoid any bottle necks, please use the most convenient gate. All gates will be promptly locked at **9:10 a.m**. and they will not be reopened until **2:55 p.m**.

Breakfast Club will be available starting at **8:30 a.m** on Tuesday 23rd February and please only use the main gate and main entrance as before. There will be no onsite catering for the first week back so please provide your children with a healthy packed lunch. Children will be expected to wear school uniform too.

\*There will be no home learning set in FP on Monday 22nd February to allow class teachers time to plan and prepare for the return of all FP pupils on Tuesday 23rd February.

**Arrangements for Foundation Phase Hub pupils on Monday 22nd February:**

If your child currently attends the FP hub on a Monday, this will be open on the 22nd February. Your child will be with their regular class teacher in their own class on this day. Year 1 and Year 2 hub pupils will be met on the Infant Yard at 8:45 a.m. and will need to be picked up at 3:00 p.m. from the Infant Yard. Reception pupils will go to their usual entrance. Breakfast Club will be open at 8:30 a.m. but please note that only the main entrance will be open on this day too. Your child will not need to wear school uniform but will need a packed lunch.

We will not be setting any formal home learning over the half-term break and it is really important that staff, parents and pupils have a rest. I will be available to answer any questions or queries via dojo or please e-mail me using this e-mail address minto.philippa@torfaen.gov.uk.

Enjoy the break everyone and please stay safe, fit and healthy.

Kindest regards,

Mrs. Philippa Minto