

Growing and Learning Together through the Love of Christ.

Friday 7th January 2022

Annwyl/Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all and it has been lovely to see so many children return to school after the Christmas break. Schools in Torfaen have been asked to operate under ‘Very High Risk’ arrangements e.g. reduce close interactions between learners, re-introduce one way systems and stop whole school gatherings. Once again, we have had to make changes to the way we operate to ensure the safety of everyone and I have outlined these changes below.

* All staff will take three lateral flow tests per week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
* All staff will wear face masks in communal areas and in classrooms (where social distancing cannot be maintained).
* Start/finish times remain unchanged.
* No whole school Worships.
* Our Early Bird/Breakfast club is still running as all pupils sit on tables in separate year groups.
* Where possible, we have forward facing tables in class.
* Staggered break and lunch times.
* Classes are kept separate on the yards.
* Fun time Friday will take place in classrooms.
* All after school clubs have been temporarily suspended until the end of January at the earliest, to avoid contact between children in different classes.

**Testing**

If your child has mild cold-like symptoms, and no one in your household has any of the main COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for coronavirus, he/she should continue to go to school, if fit to do so. The three main symptoms of COVID-19 to be aware of are:

1. a new continuous cough
2. fever or high temperature
3. loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

If your child develops one of these symptoms you should follow the self-isolation guidance and arrange for a PCR test (unless your child is under 5). The self-isolation guidance can be found here:

https://gov.wales/self-isolation

The WG do not routinely recommend tests for under 5s unless directed to do so by a doctor or if parents believe a test is absolutely necessary and in the best interests of the child.

Lateral flow tests can also be used on children 5 and over if your child has mild cold-like symptoms, feels generally unwell or are asymptomatic and we would encourage you to use these if you are in ANY doubt about sending your child to school.

Please note that as of yesterday, if you are showing no symptoms but have a positive LFD test, you no longer have to go for a PCR test to confirm the result unless you are clinically vulnerable. You need to just self isolate for 7 days from the positive LFD test and follow the self-isolation guidance in the link above.

**Contact Tracing**

A close contact is anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19:

* face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a conversation within 1 metre
* skin-to-skin physical contact for any length of time
* contact within 1 metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
* contact within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (as a one-off contact, or added up together over 1 day)
* travelled in the same vehicle

We will be working very closely with TTP in the event of a positive case within a class and following the guidance below:

1. When a single case is identified in a class, an ‘inform’ letter will be issued to the whole class. The ‘inform’ letter lets parents/guardians know there has been a positive case which your child may have been in contact with, and reminds you of precautionary steps that can be taken.
2. If we become aware of two or more cases within 7 calendar days in a class, we will issue a ‘warn and inform’ letter. The ‘warn and inform’ letter informs you that there are more than two cases in your child’s class and advises it would be prudent for the class to undertake LFD tests for 7 days to try and prevent coronavirus spreading more widely in the school/setting.

LFD tests are free and you can get them by:

* collecting from a pharmacy or a local collection point.
* by ordering online for home delivery.

We have been provided with a small supply of LFD tests to support the daily testing of any primary pupils whose parents or carers cannot access tests elsewhere.

**It is really important that you let us know as soon as possible if your child tests positive from a LFD test or PCR test so that we can work with TTP to identify close contacts**.

**Remote/Home Learning**

We are really hoping that we can continue face-to-face teaching throughout the term as this causes the least disruption to your child’s education. However, if we do have to switch to remote learning, we will inform you at the earliest opportunity.

I hope this letter reassures you that we are doing everything in our power to keep the school community safe during this time. Thank you in advance for playing your part in ensuring that we can continue to remain open to all learners. If you have any queries or concerns regarding these arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Philippa Minto

Headteacher of Henllys Church in Wales School