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## *Growing and Learning Together through Faith, Friends and Fun*

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

### Arrangements for January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of a long and challenging term, I want to firstly thank you all for your ongoing support and secondly, wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

At the end of last week, we received some direction from Welsh Government to take two planning days at the beginning of the spring term in order to revisit our risk assessments and ensure that we can open safely. Although this will not change anything for January as we had already planned for two INSET days, it will mean that two INSET days will be reallocated later in the school year. A letter from the local authority has been attached to explain this decision.

We have received no clear direction from WG in terms of what January may bring but we have been asked to be prepared for the worst-case scenario in relation to Covid and an increase in cases. With this in mind, I am predicting one of the following to happen:

- School reopens for all pupils on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January for face-to-face learning
- School reopens for a restricted number of pupils on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January whilst some pupils continue with online distance learning. This might involve a staggered return as we have experienced in the past.
- All pupils access distance learning from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

I personally hope that we all return on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January but it will all depend on the situation come January. All we can do is be prepared that it could be any of the above and as soon as I know more, I will be in contact with you.

As it stands, we are planning to see all children on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January. Below, we have outlined some considerations and reminders for such a return to school:

- **There will be no phased return:** All pupils will return on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January.
- **Bubbles/Contact Groups:** Although not currently required, we will continue to keep classes separated as much as possible in order to mitigate any risk of spreading infections.
- **There will be no whole school gatherings:** Parents and visitors to school will be kept to essential visits only and all visitors on the premises will still have to wear a face mask or shield. It is possible that Key Stage gatherings may take place following a risk assessment.

- **Breakfast Club will be open.** Again, we encourage you to use the breakfast club, specifically the free breakfast club from 8.30am so that we have less people waiting in cars. Paid breakfast club runs from 8.00am – 8.30am and costs £2.50. Free breakfast club begins at 8.30am and we ask that children are dropped off no later than 8.45am. Nursery children can also attend for the £2.50 fee.
- **FP times: 8.55am – 3.10pm.** Please send children to breakfast club before 8.45am **OR** wait in your cars until called down at 8.55am by a member of staff. For collection, we will keep the current procedure in place and you are asked to collect your child at 3.10pm.
- **KS2 times: 8.55am – 3.15pm.** Please send children to breakfast club before 8.45am **OR** wait in your cars until called down at 8.55am. For collection, we will keep the current procedure in place but you are asked to collect your child at 3.15pm.
- **Nursery times: 1.00pm – 3.00pm.** Parents are invited to park beside the driveway in the adjacent car park for drop off and collection times. For drop off, parents can walk children up to the side entrance at 1.00pm, maintaining a social distance from other parents. A home time, parents can wait alongside the hedgerow at the bottom of the car park and the children will be brought down to the main gate. We ask that parents continue to social distance and wear face coverings.
- **Playgroup.** Playgroup will open on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January.
- **Families with siblings in different key stages.** For a small number of parents who have children in different key stages, you are encouraged to park on the road down from the school, adjacent to the Church. Please then cross over and wait alongside the hedgerow for your youngest child. You are then welcome to wait here until KS2 children come out. **ONLY** parents with siblings in different key stages should be waiting here.
- **After School Club.** After school club open as usual and will close at 5.15pm

### Back to School Timetable and Times:

Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Planning days
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	All year groups (Rec–Yr6) including Nursery & Playgroup
Foundation Phase	8.55am – 3.10pm
Key Stage 2	8.55am – 3.15pm
Nursery	1.00pm – 3.00pm

We encourage parents to take advantage of the breakfast club to avoid too many cars waiting in the morning where we are unable to accommodate a staggered start.

### School Uniform and PE Kits

The wearing of the correct school uniform is essential for school – please adhere to the correct uniform. We need to promote safe hygiene practices and therefore encourage you to change your child’s uniform as regularly as possible. Please do not feel that you have to purchase a branded uniform with a school logo. Jumpers, cardigans and polo shirts in school colours are fine.

PE kits are to be worn on the day(s) your child has PE and remember that we have now added joggers and hoodies to the PE kit list at Forresters/Monk House. Again, these **MUST** be school colours (hoodies or plain navy tops). Children **must not** wear any branded training gear as an alternative to the school PE kit.

### Communication

Class teachers will continue to communicate with you via SeeSaw and/or Google Classroom. It is important that you are registered to your child’s account.

The main school communication will come out to you via SchoolComms. **PLEASE** download and use the SchoolComms app to ensure that you do not miss any vital information.

### **Mr Williams**

I would really like to say a fond farewell to Mr Williams. After four years at Ysgol y Llan, Mr Williams will be a Headteacher come January. I'm sure you will all join me in congratulating him once again on his success and wish him the very best of luck for the future.

Mr Williams has been very supportive for me as Headteacher and we have shared many memories in such a short space of time. We will all miss him terribly but we're sure that he will keep in touch and we will look forward to seeing him sometime in the future.

Miss Owen will therefore be Class 4's teacher until February half term when we can expect Mr Williams' successor Mr Steven Thomas to join us. Mr Thomas currently works in Bryn Deva school and he was successfully appointed as our new deputy headteacher last week after the interview process. We look forward to welcoming Mr Thomas to our team and the wonderful opportunities ahead.

### **Thank you**

My sincere thanks and best wishes to you all. We have truly appreciated your messages of thanks and support throughout this term and we will no doubt need them again in the new year.

So, to a wonderful team at Ysgol y Llan, I wish to thank you all. Thank you to the parents and grandparents for their support and understanding, thank you to the children for their resilience and enthusiasm, thank you to the staff for their dedication and determination and thank you to the governors for their support and guidance.

I hope that you all manage to have a lovely Christmas with your families and a peaceful New Year.

Kind regards

Mr Griffiths