



Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year. We hope you are continuing to keep safe and well during these unprecedented times.

Guidance has been received from Welsh Government and we want to reassure you that we are working closely with the local authority to develop a consistent and safe approach to welcoming back your children.

Having conducted a staff capacity audit today we write to inform you that the school will reopen this week on **Thursday 6th January 2022**. [A phased admission approach will be in operation throughout the next week for our Nursery new starters.]

Please note the following important information:

Children will remain in class contact groups internally and year group contact groups at break times when outside during the day.

For the first few weeks, children will be eating their lunches in their classrooms to minimise interaction between contact groups.

Children will need to bring in their book bags [not ruck sacks due to restrictive hanging space] with a mid-morning snack, packed lunch and a water bottle [with their names clearly written on it].

We will expect all children to attend in school uniform/colours in the Spring Term [PE kits can be worn on PE days].

The school will continue to maintain the one-way system in and out of the school site to prevent congestion at the school gates.

The school entrance gate will be open at 8.40am and children will be able to enter the school building from 8.50am using our current access arrangements.

Please do not send older children on their own early as they will not be able to access the site until the gates are opened at 8.40am.

To avoid congestion, please adhere to the session end timings at the end of the day, Reception, Years 1 and 2 children are to be collected at **3.25pm**.

Key stage 2 and Nursery children are to be collected at **3.30pm**.

Please note ALL parents will need to socially distance themselves on the school yard at the start and finish times. Staff will not be supervising this. Parents should NOT congregate at the school entrances and all parents and pupils should leave the site immediately once the children have been dropped or collected. Face coverings are to be worn on site unless exempt.



Parents/carers collecting Year 4 children at the end of the day can now access the rear of the school from the bottom yard as building work on the toilet block refurbishment has been completed. Please then exit out of the back gate [Salop Place].

At the end of the day, parents collecting Year 3 children [at 3.30pm; please avoid coming in too early as this will cause increased congestion] will be asked to wait in a specified area of the top yard whilst Reception children are being dismissed by staff at 3.25pm.

Breakfast and after school clubs will resume from Thursday 6th January. Breakfast club staff will be carrying out access health checks. [Please refer to the new Government self-isolation guidance should a member of your household test positive for Covid.]

Access to the school office will be continue to be restricted. Please try to communicate any queries in the first instance by telephone [02920707682]. If you do need to access the office, please wait at the end of the path and telephone the school number – a member of the Admin Team will then advise you on when to enter the school office.

Contingency Planning

Please be aware that although the intention is for all learners to return to school this term, we will also need to plan for the possibility of remote learning. Given our uncertainty over future transmission levels/staffing capacity, for the foreseeable future, it is essential that we prepare for a range of possible circumstances.

Welsh Government will work closely to monitor health conditions working closely with Public Health Wales and local authorities, in particular in the case of potential localised outbreaks. Remote learning is a method of teaching that integrates technology and digital media. This approach will allow our children to continue to access learning whilst at home should there be a need for school/year group/class closures. Please check your child's Hwb email tomorrow for communication from their teachers.

Please look out for symptoms of COVID-19 in your child.

The three key symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature: this means that they feel hot to touch on their chest or back
- a new, continuous cough: this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste: this means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child has any of these three key symptoms, please do not send your child to school and arrange a PCR test for them immediately. You can book a PCR test online through the NHS website at [gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or by calling 119. Anyone else in your household with any of these three key symptoms should also isolate and take a PCR test.



'Helping us to help ourselves learn'

Please note that if your child is under the age of 5 years old they should not take COVID-19 tests unless directed to do so by a doctor or if you believe a test is absolutely necessary and in the best interests of your child. They should however remain off school if they have a high temperature until it returns to normal and they feel better.

If any member of your household has tested positive for COVID-19, we also recommend that children aged 5 and over should take a daily lateral flow test every day for seven days. This should start on the day a member of your household is confirmed positive from a lateral flow or PCR test result.

It is important to understand that the plans set out in this letter may be subject to change. Please ensure that the school has your correct email address / telephone contact. Please continue to monitor your emails/text alerts for future updates and communications from the school.

We know how disruptive the last year has been for everyone. This year we want to keep your child in school as much as possible, but we also want to keep our schools and communities safe from the effects of COVID-19. We will continue to act in the best interests of your children as we move forward, together. Thank you for your patience and understanding and for all you have done to support the school in what has been the most challenging of times.

We wish you all the best and look forward to welcoming back pupils.

Kind regards,

A J Gilbert