



Dear Parent/Guardian,

I would like to take this opportunity to say the biggest thank you to all our families and extended families for all your support during this term. The engagement with children's learning has been incredible. I think you will join me in saying that Twitter highlights all the exceptional work that many of our children are producing in very challenging times for us all. I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate our children. They have been so resilient and adaptable through long periods of lockdown. The fact that we can't go out to play and see friends is difficult for all of us but particularly for younger children and older ones alike that find it hard to understand. They really have been a credit to you all. Live check-ins have been extremely positive in bringing our mini-families back together and re-establishing a community.

This Thursday and Friday (11.2.21 & 12.2.21) we will be having one consolidation of learning days and one mental health screen free day for pupils. On Thursday we will be giving the children time to catch up with any outstanding work or to go over anything that they may have found difficult. Teachers will be available all day to answer questions from any children. On Friday, we are very mindful that the children have worked so hard using technology that it would be beneficial to give them the day to develop a positive sense of sense and well-being. It is important at this time to have time as a family and time to work on ourselves. We will be sending out ideas of things to do following this e-mail and would love to see some pictures of what you have been up to!

We are very excited about the Welsh Education Minister's announcement that all Foundation Phase children will be returning to school after the February half-term. We are looking forward to having children return but are also very mindful to keep all learners, staff and our community safe. In order to do this, we will be asking for your full support to help reduce numbers further and hopefully get all children back to school safely. Kirsty Williams the education minister spoke strongly about you as parents and carers playing an essential role in ensuring this happens. We will highlight our return plans for you below so that you are clear about our way forward for your children in our school.

On Monday 22nd February staff will be preparing the classrooms for pupils to return to school so that Nursery and Reception children can return safely on Tuesday 23rd February.

HEADTEACHER:

MR. S. CLARKE

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Please note this is for pupils in Nursery that have already attended prior to closure. For children that have not yet started school, we will be in touch with you personally and will be arranging start dates with you as soon as possible. We will also be moving to a full day Nursery provision in order to reduce numbers in each session. We will be keeping older Nursery attending morning sessions and new Nursery attending afternoon sessions, times will be below in the table. A letter will be sent to Nursery parents so that you are clear about your child's arrangements. Once children have returned to school, they will be attending every day. We are asking for Year 1 and 2 pupils to return on Thursday 25th February.

Children will be entering and exiting school from the Foundation Phase gate as usual. We are **STRICTLY** asking for social distancing at all times whilst waiting and advise that you do not attend school premises early to avoid breaking social distancing. As with arrangements prior to the last lockdown, if you are running late or need to collect your child early you will need to telephone the main office and make arrangements. Please ring on arrival for staff to walkie talkie down to the class to bring the children out. **No** parents will be permitted to enter the main office area of the school. If you have any queries, please telephone. The minister also identified a risk around gatherings outside the school gates. We will still be in lockdown so are asking for you to drop and collect children are return away from the school areas as soon as possible.

Start of Day Time:	End of Day Time:
Morning Nursery Class	9.15 am- 11.35am
Afternoon Nursery Class	1.15pm- 3.35pm
Reception Class	9.15 am- 3.35 pm
Year 1 Class	9.00am- 3.20pm
Year 2 Class	9.00am- 3.20pm

There will be no breakfast club provision during this period but we will be in a position to offer hot meals to pupils in the hall. Children will not be permitted to bring any items into school and if prior arrangements are made, we will need to quarantine items for 72 hours. We will be asking that children do not bring bags at all. Only packed lunches and water bottles should be brought into school. We will be asking the children to bring their reading folders to school every Friday and will be returning them to home every Monday to allow the quarantine period. If you have lost your plastic folder please speak to your child's teacher, we will only be accepting books in these folders.

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The children may come dressed in PE kit on their specified days and can wear trainers. We will not be able to ask the children to change in school and to bring in separate clothing. Please make sure the children are dressed warmly for school, as all windows will be open to ensure adequate ventilation.

We are insisting that all adults or older children that are dropping off or collecting children **MUST** wear masks as soon as they enter the school grounds (Unless there is a medical exemption). **Only one** parent/carer will be allowed onto premises to drop or collect children at any one time. If an extended family member that has responsibility for essential childcare is coming to school, please make them clear about all the guidance we have in place.

At the moment we have not received any guidance regarding Key Stage 2 pupils returning to school. We will be offering hub provision to key worker children, vulnerable children and some identified children who need additional support. However, capacity for this provision will reduce due to staffing and whereas we could be flexible and accommodating and have offered parents more than they are entitled to, unfortunately this will not be possible moving forward. We are in a position where we are going to need to accommodate all and any new children that will be entitled due to schools returning. Please get in touch with Mrs Key (keyk2@hwbcymru.net) so that we can look at provision for after half-term for you as soon as possible. These children will not have access to the hall for lunches and will need to continue to bring packed lunches. If pupils are entitled to free school meals, the school will continue to provide for you.

The next month will be challenging for all of us and it is important we continue to work together well to ensure the safety and positive well-being for all in our community. If you have any questions no matter how big or small, please get in touch. Also, if you are struggling personally or financially, please get in touch, we are here to help and have access to a lot of support services that many families in our community have used for their benefit.

Take care and stay safe and have a restful screen free half term.

Kate Key
Primary Phase Leader

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