



23rd November 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we continue to navigate through these very concerning times, I would like to update you of the systems and procedures that are present within school.

I think we are all in agreement that the current Pandemic is having a detrimental effect on all of our lives and the loss of teaching time by pupils due to self-isolation is a concern to us all. That being said, this is a very serious virus that has proved to be deadly so we have to balance the safety of our school community with that of maintaining the education for our pupils.

Whilst we are unable to prevent the virus coming into school, our procedures within school have proved very effective at preventing the onward transmission of the virus within school. Year groups are kept separate on entry to school, there is a staggered release of pupils at the end of the day, the wearing of masks in corridors and communal areas is enforced and there are stringent seating plans in operation in all classes and the canteen area. We are confident that, in the event of a positive case, these procedures will allow us to identify a smaller number of contacts and therefore limit the negative effect on pupils' education, whilst maintaining a safe environment.

In order to identify contacts, we will:

- Speak with the Family and identify close friends / contacts / how they were transported to school / any other helpful information. We are advised to track back 48 hours prior to the day symptoms began in the positive case. If a pupil has tested positive without any symptoms, we take the 48 hours prior to the day of the test.
- Look at the seating plan in the canteen to identify pupils who sat near the positive case
- Look at seating plans in classes to identify pupils who were sitting close to the positive case. If a pupil was not sitting close but was in a number of the same lessons, we will air on the side of caution and identify them as a contact.
- Use CCTV where possible to check any other contacts.

This process is very time consuming. When we get notification of a positive case we require time to follow this process effectively. We may be in a position where we can isolate potential contacts prior to them coming in for the next school day, however if we are unable to do so, we will ask the year group to self-isolate for 48 hours whilst this work is completed. We have to ensure adequate time is committed to this to ensure safety as far as is possible. I understand the frustration you feel when your child is asked to self-isolate and the effect this may have on your work and family commitments but we will work as efficiently as possible to minimise the effect where we can.

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I must stress that the background behind each case can be very different which could lead to slightly different outcomes in terms of self-isolation. There may be a need to isolate the whole year group.

Home-School Transport

If your child uses the home-school transport and catches a bus to and from school, please ensure they carry their bus pass with them and that they catch the correct bus. If your child has been travelling on a different bus to that identified on their bus pass, please contact NPTCBC Transport department to rectify. We will be looking to implement seating plans on the buses by the end of this week. I cannot stress enough, the need for your children to wear their face masks whilst travelling on the bus.

Preventing the virus from coming into school

As stated earlier, we cannot prevent the virus coming into school – this is where we all need to support each other and ensure that we follow all the guidelines that have been set by Welsh Government and the school. These include:

- If your child is showing any of the symptoms for Covid-19, **please contact us and do not send them to school. A test should be booked and the household should isolate.**
- Wearing of masks – Please ensure your child comes to school equipped with an appropriate face mask. We do enforce the wearing of masks in corridors and communal areas. Pupils who are exempt based on medical grounds, should bring a letter in so that we can confirm this.
- If anybody in the household is showing symptoms or has undergone a test, all the immediate household need to self-isolate and all members should stay indoors and not leave the house, other than to get tested.
- The rules have changed in terms of households mixing. We can now connect with one other household to become an extended household. If any member of that extended household shows symptoms, **everybody who has been in contact with that person for the 48 hours prior to symptoms must self-isolate.**
- Please do not allow your children to attend parties, gatherings or sleepovers that break the Welsh Government rules.

Educating pupils who are self-isolating

- Where full year groups or full classes are asked to self-isolate, pupils will be asked to log into Microsoft Teams and follow their normal timetable. Teaching staff will follow their timetables and will upload work on Teams, whilst being available to interact with the pupils and answer any questions they may have.
- Where pupils are self-isolating but their year group / classes may be in school, the teacher will be teaching the class but will upload work onto teams as soon as they can. There may be a lag time between the start of the lesson and work being available and some staff may choose to upload work in readiness for the week.
- There may be times where staff are ill or self-isolating but we will work to minimise the effect of this.
- I must stress that there is no substitute for children being sat in front of a specialist teacher but we will be working as hard as possible to ensure the negative effect on education is minimised.

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YSGOL CWM BROMBIL

FORGING FUTURES TOGETHER

The current situation needs us to work together more than ever before. I assure you that everybody within the school is working as hard as they possibly can to reduce the impact of this deadly Virus.
As always, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mr. S. Clarke (Headteacher)

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