

Evenlode Primary School

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'Always being our best, for ourselves and for each other'

Date: Wednesday 5th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following updates to Welsh Government guidance around Covid 19, we wanted to update you on the following.

Blended learning.

Teachers are currently planning blended learning, in case it is needed in future. This blended learning will be a stand-alone block and will, of course, only be used if absolutely necessary. An example of this would be if we couldn't staff a class safely due to absence and lack of availability of supply cover.

IT devices.

To help with our planning and preparation, please let the school office know if you don't have an IT device at home for any Blended Learning. (evenlodeps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) Knowing in advance enables us to send you a Loan Agreement Form to sign and return, and we are able to plan for the numbers of devices we would need to allocate.

Staggered starts and end times.

We will not be implementing any changes to our current times. Our system of opening up school at 8.45am until 9.00am with an official start at 9.00am is working well. Thank you for your co-operation with mask wearing and social distancing from others on site at drop off and pick up times.

Covid procedures.

We are still implementing mitigation measures in school of course. These include mask wearing for adults, staff using LFT tests three times a week, additional cleaning, hand sanitisation regularly, virtual assemblies, use of CO2 monitors and increased ventilation. We are also still logging all confirmed cases so please keep informing us of these.

Self-isolation Arrangements.

Arrangements on self-isolation have changed. Please click on the link [Self-isolation | GOV.WALES](#)

Contacts of confirmed cases (From Welsh Government updated guidance January 2022)

- **All over 18s who are fully vaccinated (having received two full doses of an approved vaccine) and children aged 5 to 17 are now asked to take lateral flow tests (LFTs) every day for 7 days if they are identified as a contact of a positive COVID-19 case.** This is known as 'Daily Contact Testing'. *(Please note that this identification of contacts is determined by Test, Trace and Protect and not by school).*
- **The recommendation is that those undertaking Daily Contact Testing take their test before they arrive at school each day. These individuals do not need to self-isolate for that day unless they have a positive lateral flow test or develop symptoms.** In either of these cases, they should book a PCR test as soon as possible.
- Unvaccinated adults identified as a contact of a positive COVID-19 case must isolate for 7 days.
- Our position on children under 5 years old remains unchanged - they are not required to self-isolate or test as contacts.
- Anyone identified as a contact, who is fully vaccinated or aged 5 to 17 can access daily contact testing instead of self-isolation, regardless of whether they are a household or close contact.

Warn and Inform Letters. (From Welsh Government updated guidance January 2022)

As the arrangements on self-isolation have now changed, 'Warn and Inform' letter templates have been updated to reflect the latest advice.

- If there is one isolated confirmed case of Covid-19 in a class in any school, this is not evidence of transmission within a class, particularly when community transmission is very high. When a single case is identified, we will issue an 'inform letter'.
- If there are two or more cases within 7 days in a class, the approach for primary schools is that we issue a 'warn and inform' letter stating that there are two or more cases in a class and advising parents/carers that it would be prudent for the class to undertake LFT tests for 7 days to try and prevent coronavirus spreading more widely in the school.
- If we have already issued a warn and inform letter during the past 7 days, the guidance is now that we do not advise issuing a further warn and inform letter to the same group of parents and will continue to monitor the situation.

Thankyou all for your support with changes in guidance. Take care.

We look forward to seeing you and all the children on Thursday 6th January.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Foster

Headteacher/Pennaeth

Ysgol Gynradd **Evenlode** Primary School