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Learning Together, Achieving Together
Dysgu Gyda'n Gilydd, Cyflawni Gyda'n Gilydd

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Return to School – February 2021

Dear Parents / Annwyl Rhieni,

I would like to thank, once again, the Durand Primary School family for your continued support, patience and understanding during what continues to be unprecedented times. As we come to the end of this half term, I hope you and your families are all well. We would like to thank you all for the tremendous job you are doing with home learning. We want you to know that we understand the significant challenges home learning brings our parents and our learners. Who would have known, when we broke up in December, that we would have been closed again for most pupils for an extensive period of time.

Return to School for Foundation Phase

Welsh Government has announced that there will be a return to school for Foundation Phase learners after half term. In line with Monmouthshire County Council our Foundation Phase learners, Nursery to Year 2, will return on Wednesday 24th February. This will allow us time to revisit and redraft our current risk assessment in line with the Operational Guidance from Welsh Government, to ensure staff are aware of safety and hygiene measures in place to ensure learners and staff safety.

From Wednesday 24th February Distance learning will not be provided for Foundation Phase learners. If individuals or classes need to isolate, distance learning will resume.

Our new Nursery intake will join us on Friday 26th February. We will be contacting parent's individually via email in relation to this.

Key Stage 2 arrangements

Our Key Stage 2 learners, Years 3 – 6, will continue to access Distance Learning from home.

Drop Off and Collection Place and Times

These will be the same as autumn term. We will continue to operate a 'free flow' system. The gates will be opened at 8.45am for drop off straight to class via their external door by 9am and will be opened once again at 3pm for pupils to be collected straight away but by 3.10pm at the latest.

For Nursery pupils drop off is by 9.05am start with an 11.35am finish. Entry is through the Nursery garden gate on the Foundation Phase Yard.

There will, once again, be staff members available at the start and end of the day to help with all of this.

School Site

We will continue to have signage and posters dotted around the school to remind those accessing the site to adhere to social distancing rules and good hygiene. **The outdoor 'one way' system operating around the school site will remain and should be adhered to.** This system remains in place as we have a duty of care to parents as social distancing for all is still a requirement. We encourage you all to leave the site as soon as possible and not to congregate in groups of any kind at the school gates. It is really important that adults play their part in maintaining social distancing in order to keep the virus at bay and prevent further disruption to learning.

Children who are brought to school should only be accompanied by one appropriate adult and where possible siblings should be left at home. All adults will need to wear masks when on the school site.

Catering

School catering will be offering the full menu. These can be ordered in the usual manner. Any children in receipt of free school meals will need to pay for meals taken or bring a packed lunch as the Local Authority are going to continue with direct payments.

Pupils are still able to bring their own packed lunch but all remains/rubbish will be sent home again in their lunchbox to reduce risk of contamination in any way. We continue to allow pupils to bring in a healthy snack of fresh fruit or vegetables for break time. Breaks and lunchtimes will be staggered to ensure safety and reduce contact between groups.

Uniform

It is expected that all learners will wear full school uniform. School PE kit can be worn on PE days. As the weather is cold please feel free to give learners extra layers as ventilation will be needed in classrooms and lots of outdoor play will be encouraged.

Behaviour

Our school expectation is that all pupils will behave appropriately when they return to the school setting. As I hope you will understand, poor, or in appropriate behaviour will not be tolerated. **The health and safety of all and minimising of social contact is a major priority.**

Sickness

Pupils should only be sent into school if they are well. If any pupil is showing signs of COVID 19 you **must** inform the school.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

Our usual procedures will apply if a child feels unwell and we feel they should go home. Anyone showing signs of COVID symptoms will be kept separate, in a designated area until they can be collected and taken home which should be as soon as possible. In the event of anyone showing symptoms, Welsh Government and Public Health Wales Guidance **MUST** be followed.

School Office

There will be no access for parents or visitors to the school office. Please telephone the school or email and Mrs Williamson will be able to help with enquiries - durandprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk or telephone 01291 422296.

In the case of an emergency during the school day parents should ring the buzzer in the security gate and speak to the office staff.

Critical Workers

From Monday 22nd February we will continue to provide face to face provision for children of critical workers as we have done during this half term.

Things are likely to change as we welcome more learners and staff back to school. I ask that you all bear with us as we aim to make school life as enjoyable, worthwhile and safe as possible for our Foundation Phase learners. We look forward to welcoming our Key Stage 2 learners as soon as the Welsh Government deem it is safe to do so.

Finally, thank you for all the messages that you have been sending over the last few weeks. Messages of support have been much appreciated by staff who are working incredibly hard in these very unusual circumstances.

We would like to wish you all a safe and healthy half term

Thank you for your continued support.

Take care, stay safe!

Yours Sincerely / Yn Gywir,

A. J. Waters

Mrs. Allison Waters
Headteacher / Pennaeth