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

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Return to School – September 2020

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.

It has been wonderful to have some of our pupils back with us over the last few weeks for their 'Check-in, Catch-Up, Prepare' sessions. We have really enjoyed hearing about what they have been doing when they were at home in addition to the distance learning that we have provided. We have also had the opportunity to see some more of the children who have not returned during Class Teams virtual meetings.

Return to School

It was wonderful to hear the Minister announce last week that all pupils will be able to return to school in September by Monday 14th September. However we are keen to get as many pupils in as soon as possible but will be directed by Welsh Government Operational guidance, Monmouthshire County Council and Caldicot Cluster colleagues.

Monmouthshire County Council have agreed, in line with the other Local Authorities in the region, for Monmouthshire schools to take two days for planning and preparation at the beginning of September. Therefore **Tuesday 1st September and Wednesday 2nd September we will be open to staff only**. This time will be used to plan and organise the safe return to school for pupils, staff and parents. This will involve revisiting and redrafting our current risk assessment in line with the Operational Guidance from Welsh Government, revising our Health and Safety policies, ensuring staff are aware of safety and hygiene measures in place to ensure pupils and staff safety and making final adjustments to the school site and classrooms.

We will be re-opening for pupils from Year 1 up to Year 6 on Thursday 3rd September and Friday 4th September on a short phased basis with 50% of pupils in attendance each day, 9am-3.10pm.

Thursday 3rd September	Friday 4th September
Monnow and Usk	Severn and Wye

From Monday 7th September all pupils from Year 1 up to Year 6 will return to school on a full time basis.



Reception and Nursery transition to school will commence on Monday 7th September and will follow our normal process. There will be separate information sent by email to our new Reception and Nursery pupils in relation to when and how they will start with us.

We are fortunate that due to the size of our school site we do not need to have a staggered start and finish. School will start at 9am and finish at 3.10pm. Arrival should not be before 8.50am and pupils should be taken directly to their class waiting area for entry through their external classroom door. Collection will also be from each individual classroom.

Transition Day

The first two days, Thursday 3rd September and Friday 4th September, for Years 1 to 6 will be transition days. This will enable your child's new teacher to get to know them and undertake some of the activities that we would have traditionally done during moving up day. We will also arrange a time during those days for your child's current teacher to spend some time with them for 'good bye' sessions.

Classes for September

I can confirm that our class teachers for September will be:

- Nursery – Mrs Wilton
- Reception – Mrs Dunn
- Year 1 – Mrs Johns
- Year 2 – Mr Marangon
- Year 3 – Mr Wilks
- Year 4 – Mrs Sisson
- Year 5 – Mr Moses
- Year 6 – Miss Collins
- PPA – Mrs Noblet and Miss Ley
- ELSA / Well-being – Mrs Brunnock

Catering

We are expecting that our school kitchen will be open from the beginning of the Autumn Term. Any pupils requiring a meal can purchase through Parent Pay. However, Monmouthshire County Council have made the decision that this will be a 'grab n go' packed lunch (not a hot meal) until further notice.

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.

School Site

We will continue to have signage and posters will be 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, although we will be making adjustments to this for September. This will include reinstating the Linnet Road gate and having a new additional gate installed as a Reception class exit.** We will share a new video showing this at the beginning of September. This system remains in place as we have a duty of care to parents as, at present, social distancing for adults 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. 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. Please be mindful that guidance is constantly evolving and updating.

Uniform

Normal School uniform will be required when we return to school in September. We request that items brought from home are kept to a minimum. No big rucksacks please.

Wellbeing Support

The wellbeing of our pupils will continue to be one of our primary concerns when it comes to returning to school in September. Every class will have wellbeing sessions as part of the weekly curriculum delivery. Mrs Brunnock will also be available to provide ELSA support for identified pupils on a priority basis. We will be resending the wellbeing survey out at the beginning of September.

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. Parents will be contacted to pick their children up to take them home. **The health and safety of all and minimising of social contact is a major priority.**

Health and Safety:

Cleaning

Cleaning will remain a priority. Staff will clean touch points often and ensure that any shared equipment will be kept to a minimum and wiped after each use. The school will be thoroughly cleaned daily by Monmouthshire County Council Cleaning staff.

Handwashing

Handwashing facilities will be available in every classroom. Children will wash their hands on arrival, before departing and regularly throughout the day. Pupils will be taught to wash their hands carefully and regularly with soap and water. If soap and water is not available hand sanitizer will be provided. Staff will wash hands often. Posters will be available in toilets and near hand basins to reinforce this message.

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.

Please note that on arrival as parents you will be asked if your child is well.

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 (there will be one outside and one inside) 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

Unfortunately 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.

Training Days

In order for parents to be able to forward plan we have set the following dates as training days for the new academic year:

Thursday 22nd October
Friday 23rd October
Monday 2nd November
Tuesday 3rd November
Thursday 27th May
Friday 28th May

Childcare Provision

As per Welsh Government guidance there is no longer a requirement for Local Authorities and schools to provide childcare in the autumn term.

Term Dates

Term	Term begins	Half term begins	Half term ends	Term ends
Autumn	1/9/2020	26/10/20	30/10/20	18/12/20
Spring	4/1/2021	12/2/2021	19/2/2021	26/3/2021
Summer	12/4/2021	31/5/2021	4/6/2021	20/7/2021

Staff Goodbyes

We are sadly saying good bye to two of our staff members Mrs Lindsey Tyrrell and Miss Teresa Jones who will be leaving our school family. We wish them all the best for the future and thank them for being much valued members of staff.

Our staff have really appreciated the positive messages and comments from parents since we have been back in school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff for working tirelessly throughout the whole period since we closed back in March. There is a misapprehension that school staff had time off but I can assure you that staff were working throughout this period, some even through what would have been school holidays. As in all schools our staff had to adapt very quickly to a new way of working and I am extremely proud of what our staff achieved.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish our leavers all the best in their new school. They have been a credit to us here at Durand and we are very proud of them. GOOD LUCK!

Thank you for your support this year and I hope everyone has a very enjoyable summer break and I look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Thank you for your continued support.

Take care, stay safe!

Yours Sincerely / Yn Gywir,

A. J. Waters

Mrs. Allison Waters
Headteacher / Pennaeth

