

Headteacher: Mrs A Waters

Deputy Headteacher: Mr A Moses

Telephone: 01291 422296



Alianore Road
Caldicot
Monmouthshire
NP26 5DF

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

Website: www.durand.wales
Email: durandprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk

'Return to School: Check-in, Catch-Up, Prepare'

Dear Parents / Annwyl Rhieni,

I'd like to thank the Durand Primary School family for your continued support, patience and understanding during these unprecedented times.

You have a challenging decision to make. Although we would love to have all the children back in school it will not be possible for them all to be here together. You must be sure that you are comfortable with the measures that we will put in place to support the safety of your children, you and our staff.

I am writing to you to outline the process and plans that in collaboration with Monmouthshire County Council and the Caldicot Primary School Cluster have been organised to ensure a safe phased return to school. Please be assured that the health and wellbeing of your child and the staff of Durand has been at the forefront of all decisions made. You will have heard that Welsh Government announced the plans for schools across Wales. A reminder of what the minister announced:

- Statutory schooling will re-start, schools will reopen to pupils from Monday 29th June 2020.
- This time will be used for the children to have the opportunity to 'check-in, catch-up and prepare for the summer and September.
- There will be a phased approach built over time.
- Schools will be open to all year groups for limited periods.
- Only a maximum of a third of pupils will be in school at one time.
- Groups will be smaller, providing secure time with teachers and some classmates.
- The time will include a blend of personalised classroom experience and online home learning.

Session Times

Please note that pupils will return to school for one 3 ½ hour session per week from 9am to 12.30pm for 3 weeks. This will give the pupils the opportunity to check in with their class teacher and a small group of classmates. Groups will factor in siblings attending on the same day and once set pupils will not be able to swap groups. **The timetable for these sessions and groupings will be sent out separately.**

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL AND COLLECTED BY ONE APPROPRIATE ADULT AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, SIBLINGS SHOULD BE LEFT AT HOME.

Attendance

Attendance for all children is voluntary. There will be no sanction or judgement made on you as a parent. The Welsh Government and Monmouthshire County Council have been very clear that if parents, for whatever reason, do not wish to send their child to school at the end of June, there will be no problem or challenge to that decision. Distance learning will continue for all children.

Learning

The summer term will be used to provide opportunities for pupils and staff to readjust to being back with their peers within a school environment. The Welsh Government strongly recommends that schools focus on the emotional health and wellbeing of pupils for the remainder of the summer term.

Children will undertake the distance learning tasks that the teacher has been providing. There will not be any formal teaching at this stage, due to the focus on the wellbeing of the children. We will be supporting children's readiness for learning and focussing on their next steps for the Autumn Term. There will be regular breaks and activities undertaken outside.

Uniform

As this is a return to school we would like to see children wearing their school uniform. All clothes should be washed daily and we would suggest that after a session in school, the clothes are changed once you arrive home. Only pre-filled water bottles, a snack and coats should be brought into school (no pencil cases, P.E. kits or large bags). Sandwich bags will not be needed as children will be going home before for lunch. Pupil belongings will not be stored centrally on coat pegs, but will be kept by pupils at their individual desks to reduce risk of contamination.

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 for all is a major priority.**

Health and Safety:

Cleaning

The school has had a deep clean over the past few weeks and is ready to welcome staff and pupils. 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 MCC 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.

PPE

No PPE is required when undertaking routine educational activities in the classroom or school setting. However, PPE will be available to staff when undertaking emergency first aid. PPE will be worn in the event of any pupil showing symptoms of COVID, whilst waiting with them to be collected. The chief medical officer has reiterated advice that face coverings are not required where social distancing can be maintained.

Signage

Signage and posters will be dotted around the school to remind those accessing the site to adhere to social distancing rules and good hygiene. **There will be a 'one way' system operating within the school building and around the school site.** This will all be clearly signposted and collection access points clearly labelled. **Please note that following Local Authority advice the Linnet Road Side Entrance gate will be closed and not accessible. All entry and exit will be from Alianore Road.**

School Office

During the summer term 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. 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.

Social Distancing

With social distancing measures still very much in place, arrangements have been made in school to help children and staff stay at a safe distance.

Adult to adult - All adults accessing our school site are expected to adhere to the 2m social distancing rule. Please support us in doing this by modelling it for our children.

Adult to child – There will be social distancing where appropriate and all classrooms have been set up to allow for this. However, as we have responsibility for children, adults may need to come within the 2m rule to support and care for the children depending on individual needs.

Child to child – Teachers will regularly remind and reinforce the importance of social distancing with pupils. However we cannot guarantee that your child will not come into closer contact with others. We fully understand your concerns regarding the safety of your child, but it is important to be realistic about the prospect of younger children maintaining social distancing.

Welsh Government guidelines state,

'It is not practicable to expect learners to maintain consistent social distancing of two metres.... Practitioners should recognise that younger learners will not be able to maintain social distancing at all times.'

We will remind and reinforce the importance of social distancing with pupils but we must all be realistic about the prospect of younger children maintaining social distancing. We will endeavour to do our best.

Childcare Provision

Referring to Monmouthshire County Council's Principles, *'Places in schools and childcare will be highly limited and only particularly vulnerable children and the children of critical workers whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response should be attending during this time.*

If you are classed as a critical worker but are able to perform the critical parts of your job effectively when working from home, then you should do so.

Even for critical workers, provision will only be made in schools or other settings where there is no safe alternative for your family.'

It is important that anyone needing childcare registers online via the Monmouthshire County Council website.

Please note that to allow all pupils the opportunity to check in, catch up and prepare, the number of key worker children we can accommodate will be capped.

A pupil will not be able to attend the childcare group and their class check-in on the same day. All learners attending class check-ins will need to be collected at the end of the session and cannot be catered for in the childcare group on that day.

Provision for children attending the childcare group will focus on childcare and not check in, catch up and prepare. It will include opportunities for children to engage in age appropriate activities that will be supervised by members of our staff.

I hope the information above helps and reassures you. I understand the 'new normal' will take some time to get used to. I look forward to working with all stakeholders in making this return as smooth as possible for all.

Thank you for your continued support.

Take care, keep safe!

Yours Sincerely / Yn Gywir,

A. J. Waters

Mrs. Allison Waters
Headteacher / Pennaeth