

Durand Primary School

Newsletter

Autumn 2020 Issue 1



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

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer although it seems like so long ago now already!

It has been wonderful to see all of our Durand School family back with us after a difficult few months for us all. Hopefully we are now in a 'new' normal, whatever that may be!

I would especially like to send a very warm welcome to all our new families who have joined us this year!

One of our main aims this year is to keep everyone safe so we have had to put a lot of additional measures in place and I know that you will understand the reasons for this.

Site Safety.

I would like to thank everyone for adhering to our one way system around the school site which we have put in place to keep all of you as safe as we possibly can in these still unusual times. We have endeavoured to make it as easy as possible with clear markings, so could I please ask parents to stick to following the arrows around the site. We have made some 'tweaks' since the summer and will continue to do this as we go along, if we feel it is required. Hopefully we will soon have the new Reception class exit gate installed.

Drop-off and Pick Up.

Rather than implementing a staggered start and finish we have chosen to operate a 'free flow' system. For pupils in Reception up to Year 6 the gates are 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 we are tweaking the times and reverting back to our original time of a 9.05am start with an 11.35am finish. Entry is through the Nursery garden gate on the Foundation Phase Yard.

There will be staff members wearing high-viz waistcoats available at the start and end of the day to help with all of this.

In order to maintain Social Distancing, which is still in place for adults, and to keep everyone as safe as possible could I request that only one adult drops off and picks up their child(ren). It is also important that everyone leaves our site, including the car park, as quickly as possible. However much we would like to be back to 'normal' this virus has not gone away as I am sure you are all aware of the situation in Caerphilly Borough Council.

Communication.

As we need to clear the site each day as soon as possible there is very little time for staff members to spend with parents. We would prefer communication via phone or email. Although there may be occasions when your child brings home a letter we will also be aiming to keep this to a minimum. With that in mind, could I please ask that any request for term time absence (including a holiday request) be made via email rather than collecting a form at the office. We need your child / children's name/s and date/s of requested absence. The school email address is durandprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk

PE Kits.

Just to remind you that in line with other local schools we have decided not to have PE kits permanently in school. Instead we ask that pupils wear their PE kits and daps / trainers to school on their specified PE day(s) with a school jumper / sweatshirt / cardigan over the top and jogging / tracksuit bottoms over shorts if the weather is cold / wet. This is to reduce the risk of contamination and will allow kits to be washed and ready for the following week.

Items from Home.

In order to keep any risk of transmission from home to school to a minimum I must request that no items be brought to school from home e.g. toys, pencil cases etc. I would also request that where possible lunchboxes are brought without putting them inside another bag / rucksack, but if a bag is required then it is as small as possible. We have seen a number of large rucksacks being brought with just a lunch bag inside, please just bring the lunch bag!

Bikes and Scooters.

We have noticed as number of pupils bringing bikes or scooters to school. We are happy for our pupils to ride their scooters or bikes to school accompanied by their parents, but do not allow these to be ridden in our school grounds, as it can be a danger to others, particularly younger pre-school siblings. Please ensure that your son / daughter dismounts their bike or scooter before entering the school grounds. Scooters and bikes can be left, at your own risk, in the fenced area provided near the Alianore Road entrance. **Please note that our green cycle shelter is for use by our Year 5 & 6 pupils only.** Thank you for your help with this matter.

Training Days.

The following days have been allocated as training days for this academic year:

Thursday 22nd October

Friday 23rd October

Monday 2nd November

Tuesday 3rd November

Thursday 27th May

Friday 28th May

Schoop.

Just to remind everyone to update their Schoop settings to take into account the change of Year group from September. The Schoop app is free to install and our Schoop ID is 9713. Many thanks.

Lunch ordering.

Just to remind everyone that lunches need to be ordered through Parent Pay by 9am each day. Many thanks.

Home Learning.

We have decided this year to issue all pupils with a home learning 'kit' containing an exercise book, a basic pencil case and details of their Hwb login. Home learning will be set mainly through Hwb so we have been working with our pupils to ensure that they are able to access this and navigate their way around the learning programmes.

Spanish lessons.

As part of moving towards the new curriculum for Wales we are introducing a Modern Foreign Language to our Key Stage 2 pupils. This will involve learning some of the language, together with learning about the Spanish culture. Mrs Manship, who is a fluent Spanish speaker, will be working with our Year 5 and 6 pupils this half term and with Years 3 and 4 after half term.

Pupil Absence.

Could I please remind parents to use our dedicated absence line for reporting pupil absence. When leaving a message please give a reason for your child's absence. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

Jewellery.

The only jewellery permitted to be worn by pupils whilst at school is a wrist watch and one pair of stud earrings. These will need to be removed for all PE lessons. Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

Nut Free School.

In line with many other schools and due to the number of people with this allergy we are a 'nut free school'. I must ask that no nut products are brought into school either as a break time snack or as part of a lunchbox. Many thanks.

Good Conduct Awards.

As a school we operate a half termly 'Good Conduct Award' system where we reward pupils from Reception up to Year 6 with a certificate who have shown excellent conduct and behaviour both within the classroom and around the school. This is part of our school ethos encouraging both good behaviour and good manners.

Term Dates for 2020-2021

Term	Term begins	Half term begins	Half term ends	Term ends
Autumn	1-9-20	26-10-20	30-10-20	18-12-20
Spring	4-1-21	15-2-21	19-2-21	26-3-21
Summer	12-4-21	31-5-21	4-6-21	20-7-21

Plus May bank holiday on Monday 3rd May 2021.

I look forward to working with you all this year!

Many thanks to you all for your continued support!

**Mrs Allison Waters
Headteacher**