

Durand Primary School

Newsletter

Autumn 2021 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 already seems like so long ago now!

It has been wonderful to see all our Durand School family back with us! I would especially like to send a very warm welcome to all our new families who have joined us this year!



COVID Updates.

I know that we would all like to be back to 'normal' however, this virus has not gone away, in fact we have had several confirmed cases within our school population since returning in September. We are working very closely with our Track and Trace team to keep our school community as safe as we can. Although there is still a risk of your child getting COVID-19, your child can continue to attend school provided your child remains well. This is in line with current Welsh Government COVID isolation requirements.

If your child starts to feel unwell, no matter how mild the symptoms are, your child should stay away from school and get a PCR test. We know how disruptive the last year has been for everyone. This year we want to keep your child in school as much as possible, but we also want to keep our communities safe from the effects of COVID-19. We hope that you will be able to play your part by following the advice above.

It remains one of our main aims this year to continue to keep everyone as safe as we possibly can. With this in mind we have decided to keep most of the measures that we had in place during last year and we would welcome your support in maintaining these to enable us to keep your children, our staff and yourselves as safe as we can.

Site Safety.

We will be keeping our one-way system around the school site and ask that all families adhere to this. 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.

Drop-off and Pick Up.

We are continuing to operate a 'free flow' system. For pupils in Reception up to Year 6 the gates are opened at 8.50am for drop off straight to class via their external door by 9am and will be opened once again at 3.05pm for pupils to be collected by 3.10pm at the latest.

For Nursery pupils it is 9am start with an 11.30am finish. Entry is through the Nursery garden gate on the Foundation Phase Yard.

There will be staff members around the site at the start and end of the day to offer help and support.

In-school.

For pupils whilst in school we have kept the measures that we had in place last year. Where we have made a minor change, we have still maintained each class as a distinct group.

Communication.

Although staff are available at the beginning and end of the day, as we are aiming to keep the flow of parents moving, there is limited time for them to speak to you at length. 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

School Office.

We are continuing to restrict physical access for parents or visitors to the school office. Mrs Williamson will be available outside the main entrance most mornings to answer any queries.

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.

Face Coverings.

Under the new framework for schools face coverings are no longer required when outdoors. However, should anyone choose to wear one we would respect their wishes to do this.

PE Kits.

We have decided not to revert to having 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. We have seen that this has reduced the number of lost items from changing within school and gives more time for learning.

Jewellery.

The only jewellery permitted to be worn by pupils whilst at school is a wristwatch and one pair of stud earrings. **All jewellery, including earrings, will need to be removed for all PE lessons.** If pupils are unable to remove these items themselves for PE lessons, then they should not be worn to school on your child's PE day. This is school policy which has been set by the Governing Body after extensive consideration. Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

Items from Home.

In order to continue 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.

There are six training days to be taken during the 2021-22 academic year. The dates we have allocated for these are:

Thursday 21st October

Friday 22nd October

Monday 1st November

Tuesday 2nd November

Friday 18th February

Plus one more - to be kept should we need to close for election purposes during May.

Jubilee Bank Holiday

Next year is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and to celebrate this everyone has been given an extra bank holiday. The official bank holiday date is during the summer half term so schools have been instructed to take an additional day during term time. We have decided that we are going to take our **additional bank holiday day on Monday 6th June** which is immediately after the Platinum Jubilee events.



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.

Summer Holiday Works.

I am sure that many of you will have seen the wonderful developments that have taken place in school during the summer. We now have two new canopies outside Years 5 & 6, eight new storage units, new Nursery pathways and a new Forest School activity area that has been started behind the shipping containers. Inside the building we have had new carpets in Year 6 and the Key Stage 2 shared area and the staffroom has been renovated. We are also waiting for an extension to the Key Stage 2 trim trail soon! These are all very exciting developments and serve to enhance our school facilities.

Aldi Donation.

We would like to say a **huge thank you to Aldi** for their very generous donation of Fresh fruit for our pupils at the end of last week! Our pupils really enjoyed the apples, bananas, pear and oranges!



Parents Evenings.

We will be reinstating face to face parent consultations this term. However, due to the current situation with a rise in COVID19 cases, we have taken the decision to move these on by two weeks so they will now be held on **Monday 11th October and Tuesday 12th October**. As this may not suit everyone, we will be sending out information via Schoop forms of alternative communications that parents can opt for instead should they wish to do so.

Lunch.

Just to remind everyone that lunches need to be ordered through Parent Pay by 9am each day. We will be reverting to full menu options starting on Monday 27th September with week 2. Many thanks.

Home Learning.

We have decided, once again, 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.

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.

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.

Term Dates for 2021-2022

Term	Term begins	Half term begins	Half term ends	Term ends
Autumn	2/9/2021	25/10/2021	29/10/2021	17/12/2021
Spring	4/1/2022	21/2/2022	25/2/2022	8/4/2022
Summer	25/4/2022	30/5/2022	3/6/2022	22/7/2022

Plus May Bank Holiday on Monday 2nd May 2022

I look forward to working with you all this year!

Many thanks to you all for your continued support!

**Mrs Allison Waters
Headteacher**