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Information for February 2021 – Partial Return to Face to Face Learning

12th February 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you and your families continue to be safe and well.

Again, during this lockdown your efforts as parents / carers have been amazing. As I wrote in my Feb 1st newsletter, recreating school within your kitchen or living room is impossible! **Each one of you has done an exceptional job – THANK YOU from all the staff.**

Following on from the LA letter sent yesterday, I can now confirm the following details for returning after the half term break. The local authority has designated **Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd February** as planning and preparation days, to ensure risk assessments, processes and systems are in place to welcome back pupils safely. As before, please note our one-way system will still be in operation and starts at the rugby club gate. **We advise all parents must wear masks as per LA guidance and keep to the 2-metre distance.**

There will be 3 tiers in place in Penclawdd Primary after half term.

1. Foundation phase pupils in school (Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2)

During the first week after term, all pupils attending school will be required to bring a packed lunch (except Nursery) and will eat in the hall with **only** their class bubble.

Children will need to bring a healthy snack and water.

Staggered entry and exit. See table on page 2.

Please ensure children wear warm clothes as we will be ensuring a range of outdoor activities take place and we have to maintain ventilation systems, so classrooms are colder than usual!

Children will remain in their class bubbles and will not interact with other class bubbles.

Children will continue to follow the school safety systems to mitigate against the risk of Covid, washing hands regularly etc

There will be no blended learning for any Foundation Phase children **after February 12th 2021** (unless you are self-isolating or shielding).

We are really looking forward to welcoming back our Foundation Phase children after half term and staff will be following LA and WG guidance. *Please note, the LA has stated that attendance will be compulsory for Foundation Phase children.*

Please let us know by Wednesday February 24th, if you **do NOT** intend to send your Foundation Phase child to school.

2. Blended learning and live check ins for years 3,4,5,6.

Home learning for KS2 commences on Tuesday 23rd February 2021.

Staff will continue to set work/live sessions in line with current procedures through Teams/J2E.

We will inform you as soon as we get any information regarding the return to school for Key Stage 2 pupils.

3. Emergency on-site Learning for KS2 Children of Critical Workers-8.40am -3.20pm

Emergency on-site Learning for Children of Critical Workers will be held on-site and commences on **Tuesday 23rd February 2021.**

These places are very restricted and parents are requested to only access a place if they have no other childcare arrangements. This provision is **ONLY** offered to those who **need** it as opposed to those who want it.

Please see below the details of returning to school.

Class	Arrive	Time	Depart
Nursery	Drop off at Nursery gate	9am	11.30am
Rec/Y1	Rugby club gate No parents on site	8.40am – 8.50am	3.00pm Breakfast club ramp *with siblings from Y1/2 and Emergency On-site Learning
Y1/2	Rugby club gate No parents on site	8.40am – 8.50am	3.10pm Breakfast club ramp *with siblings from Emergency On-site Learning
KS2 Emergency On-site Learning for Children of Critical Workers	Main Entrance No parents on site	8.40 – 8.50am Shireen will meet children	3.20pm Main Entrance Remaining children from Emergency on-site Learning

General safety systems to mitigate against the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please be aware that whilst every effort has been made to mitigate the risk to staff, pupils and public, however, it is noted that total mitigation of the risk of contamination/infection with COVID-19 is not possible.

Key Aspects

- Please be aware of the symptoms of COVID-19 (flu like symptoms, a continuous cough, high temperature, loss of taste and/ or smell, rash) and ensure that you or your child do not come to school if symptoms are present.
- Strict hygiene and cleaning routines will be in place, including regular handwashing. All children will have hygiene and behaviour expectations explained on return to school. **Clean hands thoroughly more often** than usual with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use a hand sanitiser as provided around the school
- Additional cleaning rotas are in place for high traffic areas/ touch points.
- Staff will have access to lateral flow testing twice weekly

- All staff will wear medical grade masks (a video will be sent on 22/2/21 of how staff will look in masks) and maintain the 2-metre distance from each other and from children as far as is possible with young children.
- All staff/ children will wash hands on entry to the building and throughout the day.
- We will ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Pupils will be in class bubbles and will not mix
- FP - it is acceptable for them not to distance within their group, the important measure here is to maintain and not mix the contact group
- Access to the outdoor learning will be encouraged and planned for.
- All doors must remain ajar to the hall/ classrooms/ staffroom to maintain ventilation flow
- Breakfast Club will not be able to operate when school resumes after the half term break. *This will be reviewed during the course of the term and you will be updated of any changes.*
- Children, staff and other adults with COVID-19 symptoms or who have tested positive in the last 10 days must not come into a school.
- Anyone developing COVID-19 symptoms during the school day must be isolated and sent home immediately

Help to keep schools open

During this time, the other current Welsh Government Restrictions for alert level 4 will continue to remain in place. Outside of school, it will be important that all staff, children and their families continue to stay at home as much as possible and limit their contact with others. We recognise the vital role education plays and that is why education is being prioritised in any headroom that is available.

In the Director of Education's letter to parents this week, she stressed the importance of maintaining social distancing outside school. We will work hard to ensure that we maintain and adhere to all such safety advice within the school setting. Parents have a role to play outside school in maintaining the social distancing guidance. Please do not meet with other children at the park after school, or at each other's houses etc. jeopardising the potential risk to shut schools down again.

In line with the guidance. Please be familiar with the current expectations for the safe entry and exit of each child to the school premises:

1. When outside the school gates, follow the social distancing guidelines given by Public Health Wales, ensuring you stay 2M apart from others.
2. If waiting to drop off or receive your child, stay 2M apart from others at all times.
3. You must wear a mask when dropping off and collecting your child as per LA guidance

Thank-you so much for **ALL** your continued support and understanding. I know I am repeating myself, but I want to again express my thanks to #TeamPenclawdd (Parents, pupils, staff & governors). **Together** we have been on an unprecedented journey that has tested the strength of us all. We have steered our way through this for the past year, and although very difficult at times, we are still striving forward.

Wishing you a happy and safe half-term break –please switch off from home learning!



Best wishes and keep safe - we hope to see you all very soon!

If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact our school office or email.

Mrs. L Reynolds-Milnes
Headteacher

Headteacher - Mrs. L. Reynolds-Milnes - Prifathrawes