



Ysgol Tanyfron

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Headteacher / Pennaeth: Mr D S Lloyd

Chair of Governors: Mr S Wynne

8th June 2020

Coronavirus / Covid-19 Update – June 8th 2020

Dear Parent/Guardians,

Many thanks to all the parents/guardians who have emailed school with a 'question' regarding the reopening of schools and also the current situation. I hope these answers will help you with your thought process in coming to a decision regarding your child(ren) returning to school.

Question - How many key workers children are currently going to school?

Our daily numbers fluctuate due to individual family circumstances. We have been as low as 2 pupils and as busy as 23 pupils. On average, we welcome 12 pupils to school daily.

Question - What would the framework of the lessons be?

As quoted by the education minister the purpose of the sessions are 'Check in, Catch Up and Prepare'. Each school within their individual circumstances will adopt a different approach. For Ysgol Tanyfron at this early stage and without all the relevant information we are proposing that our approach will focus on pupil wellbeing. Pupils haven't visited family, friends yet alone schools for a sustained period, they haven't communicated or played with friends so redeveloping these key skills in the limited time we have before the summer holidays is important to our focus.

Question - What would they be working on and would this be the same work that's being uploaded onto HWB for them?

The education minister has indicated that these sessions should NOT be curriculum based due to the likelihood that not all pupils will return. Therefore as noted above the main emphasis will be on 'wellbeing'. However, it will allow teachers the opportunity to work with pupils and parents/guardians to discuss the home learning to date and offer any support, which may be needed. Each teacher will continue to set work through the Google classroom and SEESAW platform in line with current procedures.

Question - Will there be mixed age groups?

This all depends on the number of responses we receive from parents/guardians wishing for their child(ren) to return to school and the number of staff available. As a leadership team (myself, Mrs Jones and the Chair of Governors) we have looked at the possibility of returning within the current class list structure, working within year groups specifically or having wider mixed age groups due to the number of responses.

Question - Our question regards the year 6 leavers. Is it possible to arrange some kind of online leavers presentation, maybe a recorded message from class teachers to wish them well, possibly using Zoom or another meeting app. We fully understand the difficulties of the situation, however we do feel that the year 6 group would benefit from some closure/memory of finishing primary school. I know a lot of schools are organising similar activities to help with the wellbeing of transition. Is this a possibility?

This is something all staff feel passionately about. Whilst all pupils have felt the impact of the closure, I feel particularly 'sad' and 'downhearted' for the year 6 pupils. The traditional leavers service rounds of the last term of primary school, our current year 6 has missed that along with other memorable events – Glan Llyn, Sports Day, Sporting Events and transition events based at their chosen high school.

We had initially discussed with the high schools about being able to 'bring back' all the year 6 pupils for a session at Tanyfron along with bowling and a meal as we have done previously. However, it looks now this won't be possible due to the restrictions. We have looked at an online presentation/session but current Welsh Government guidelines do not permit the use of any online platform for communication. (We hope this may change) With transition itself, Miss Harris will be providing all necessary information this week.

At present staff are looking at the best way to 'remember and celebrate' our year 6. A presentation, staff messages are all under consideration along with a mixture of them all. What we can promise is that they won't be leaving without a 'fuss' being made of them individually and collectively.

Question – Will 'Change of Circumstances Form' still be required?

In the short term a 'Change of Circumstances Form' will still be needed until school officially reopens on the 29th June. They may be required after that depending on the guidance we receive. Welsh government expectations remain the same even with the easing of lockdown. If parents/guardians can safely look after their child(ren) at home then they should. If there are no changes to home living arrangements then your child should stay at home. It is likely that the number of key worker children returning will continue to grow. Over the next 3 weeks, we are working at 20% capacity, after that 30%. As stated throughout the lockdown if numbers exceed demand then priority places will need to be allocated, hence why the 'Change of Circumstances Form' are needed to allow us collect all the necessary information.

Question – Will children be asked to wear school uniform?

We currently don't have an answer to this question. I have seen a mixed approach from schools in England with some schools wearing uniform and some not. This is an area we would need to gain further information on before providing an accurate answer. (sorry!!!)

Question – Do you know many other children will possibly be in a 'bubble'?

Again, I do not have an answer yet to this question. The overall approach of 'how' pupils will return to school is still to be confirmed. Bubbles I believe could only range between 8-12 pupils due to the class size and safely managing social distancing. However, each school will have a different floor space capacity. I am sure the official guidance due out this week will clarify this question.

Please remember that the daily phone line will be available throughout today (9.00am till 3.00pm) where Mrs Jones or I will be on hand to answer questions you may have.

Yours sincerely



Mr D. Lloyd
Headteacher