



# Ysgol Tanyfron

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Headteacher / Pennaeth: Mr D S Lloyd

Chair of Governors: Mr S Wynne

15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## Coronavirus / Covid-19 Update – July 15<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Parent/Guardians,

As we approach the end of term and academic year, I will certainly reflect on it being a massive challenge to say the least. At both home and school, we have had to navigate our way through uncertain, challenging and emotional times. From the point of school closure and lock downs we have managed to rise to the challenge, play our part and remain functional and I am proud to reflect upon the fact we have done our best as a school and community to adapt to the situation.

The team and I will always be grateful of the support, praise and encouragement that has been shared with us throughout these times. Trying to juggle home and school life for us whilst trying our best with the new concept of distance learning has not been easy for the team. I appreciate we do not have the perfect model for distance learning that suits the demands of each families circumstances, but this is the case in all schools. Through collaboration with other schools and yourselves, we will be developing and enhancing our means and methods of distance learning over time. We will aim to progress towards a fully accessible 'Blended Learning' approach that is consistent and suitable for all children should they be in school or at home from early September.

I write to you to share with you our reopening of school proposals and the logistics of how the timetable will work. I must stress that at this point all the information shared is provisional and subject to local authority approval as discussions between all major stakeholders continue this week. Should any proposals require amending I will inform you at the earliest point. This proposal, as with the 'Check In, Catch Up and Prepare' sessions, has been written with the overarching ethos of 'staff and pupil safety'.

### Welsh Government Guidance

Whilst guidance from Welsh Government has been published, the Wrexham local authority and Ysgol Tanyfron are now adapting it. Therefore, these proposals include two periods of time **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September** and **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September onwards**.

Our decision-making has been based around guidance from the following document - ***Operational guidance for schools and settings from the autumn term*** for any parents/guardians wishing to read the guidance please follow the link below –

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-07/operational-guidance-for-schools-and-settings-from-the-autumn-term.pdf>

### **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

The Welsh Government has described this period as 'planning and preparation time'. School will be using this time to plan effectively whilst welcoming back 'bigger' groups/bubbles of children at staged intervals across this period.

School will be closed on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September to allow staff to prepare for the academic year ahead. On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> we will start to welcome back pupils. We will be prioritising our new Reception,

Year 3 and Year 6 pupils, so these year groups will be in on both days. Other year groups will be staggered across the two days, please see table below.

Year group	Day in school	Time
Reception	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> & Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	08.45am – 12.00pm
Year 1	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	08.45am – 2.45pm
Year 2	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	08.45am – 2.45pm
Year 3	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> & Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	08.55am – 2.55pm
Year 4	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	09.00am – 3.00pm
Year 5	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	09.00am - 3.00pm
Year 6	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> & Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	09.00am – 3.00pm

### **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

For this week, each class will split into two groups, A and B. If your child is in group **A** they will come to school on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September**. If your child is in group **B** they will come in on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September**. School will be closed to all learners on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September for a deep clean.

This means each class will only have approximately 50% of its total so that staff can dedicate more time to each child through this extended settling in period. We will aim to ensure that all siblings are in on the same day where possible.

**Please note – During this period (Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September there will be NO key worker childcare provision run by school.**

### **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September onwards - timetable & timings**

As stated in the Welsh Government guidance, start and end times will need to be staggered to allow effective social distancing. As a result, the times for the school day will be as follows –

The governing body, Mrs Jones and myself have taken the decision to implement an earlier finishing time by implementing a shortened lunchtime period, where maintaining social distancing we feel is the hardest part of the day for the pupils. However, from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September all pupils and classes will operate in full each day.

Class	Teacher	Start Time	Finishing time	Number in Bubble
Nursery	Miss H Jones	08.55am	11.25am	18
Rec / Year 1	Mrs J Jones	08.45am	2.45pm	54
Year 1 / 2	Mrs J Evans-Jones	08.45am	2.45pm	
Year 3	Mrs T Humberstone	08.55am	2.55pm	18
Year 4 / 5	Miss C Roberts	09.00am	3.00pm	27
Year 5/ 6	Miss C Harris	09.00am	3.05pm	25

### **Nursery Provision**

By now, we would have welcomed our new Nursery cohort to school on a number of occasions for transition sessions; however, this has not been possible to date. Now we have the full guidance for September we will be writing to all parents/guardians specifically with the most up to date information/plans we have.

We will certainly be looking at the first two-week window to implement a transition program of smaller groups of pupils to help overcome any anxiety issues, which will only be natural. This will also be a good time for us to meet parents/guardians and start to build up a positive relationship. These groupings will be shared shortly and will of course follow the latest social distancing guidance.

### **School and Classroom Settings**

When in school pupils will have restricted movement. Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 bubbles will not be exposed to each other at any point throughout the day due to specific and strict timetabling measures. Internal doors will create a 'vacuum', which prevents cross contamination opportunities therefore minimising the risk of transmission.

As with the Check In, Catch Up and Prepare sessions there will be **NO** whole school opportunities such as ‘celebration’ or collective services. This will also apply to break and lunchtime. Pupils will play and eat lunch separately within their ‘bubbles’. In line with the guidance, we will be looking to maximise outdoor learning opportunities across the whole school.

### **Gender neutral toilets.**

Following the guidance, to ensure that we are minimising the risk of the transmission between ‘bubbles’ during the school day each bubble/group of bubbles will have their own set of toilets. This will mean that we will be moving away from traditional girls/boys toilets. Each bubble and gender will have their own allocated toilet provision which will be monitored and cleaned regularly and have a new system implemented which will prevent different genders being in the toilet block at the same time.

### **School Uniform**

From September, we will be asking all pupils to return to school in full uniform. Thank you to all those parents who returned uniform orders. These will be ready for collection from school on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September**. Full school uniform currently consists of –

<b>BOYS</b>	<b>GIRLS</b>
Grey/Black Trousers	Grey/Black Trousers – Skirt – Pinafore
Yellow T-Shirt	Yellow T-Shirt
Green Jumper	Green Jumper / Cardigan
Black Shoes – NO TRAINERS	Black Shoes – NO TRAINERS
	<i>Where possible we would encourage girls to have their hair ‘tied up’ to help with hygiene.</i>

### **Breakfast Club / Wrap around provision**

Initial discussion with the local authority indicate that Breakfast club will resume from the 1<sup>st</sup> September with new guidelines specific to each school. For ourselves we will be running breakfast club daily from **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September**. The new guidelines for Ysgol Tanyfron will be –

- Breakfast Club will run from 08.15am until the start of your child(ren)s day.
- From Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September, Breakfast club will only run for ‘Key Workers’. (Evidence of key worker status will be required) **This is to be reviewed in October half term to potentially increase availability to all pupils.**
- Charging prices are to be confirmed by the Welsh Government/Local Authority in due course.

### **Dragons Daycare**

After speaking with Katie and the team, they are looking to reopen in some capacity from September 1<sup>st</sup> onwards. Parents/Guardians are advised to speak to Dragons direct or follow there Facebook page for further information.

### **Moving from Distance Learning to Blended Learning**

This week will be the last of distance learning as we break up for the summer. After the 17<sup>th</sup> July, it will be difficult for you to communicate with your current class teacher on SEESAW so please do not upload any work and be mindful any messages/queries may not be answered. Please look to communicate through the schools email address ([mailbox@tanyfron-pri.wrexham.sch.uk](mailto:mailbox@tanyfron-pri.wrexham.sch.uk)) which will be monitored more regularly.

After reading the guidance from the Welsh Government and local authority, we will be evaluating and planning some enhancements to the way in which we promote learning and feedback to the learners between home and school. From September, Blended learning will focus on new strategies within school and home to ensure all pupils can access teaching and learning activities whether they are at home or school both on a weekly basis e.g. homework or should schools close due to a local/national outbreak of Covid-19.

### **Communication over the summer**

I will be encouraging all staff to have a well-earned rest over the summer holidays, which is well deserved for all their efforts in quickly adapting to a new style of teaching and learning whilst supporting key worker provision daily from

the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. However, given that the Welsh Government have only given us a very tight window to organise the school in time for September in such a way that all staff, governors, parents/guardians and children are clear before we break up, I see Mrs Jones and I having to update staff, governors and yourselves at times throughout the holiday period.

Any communications required throughout the summer will be shared via the school website and APP. The details for these platforms are –

School Website – [www.ysgoltanyfron.co.uk](http://www.ysgoltanyfron.co.uk)

School App – [schoolsays.co.uk/tanyfron](http://schoolsays.co.uk/tanyfron)

We will continue **not to** use twitter during this period. Our use of twitter will resume from 1<sup>st</sup> September.

As we did with the Check In, Catch Up and Prepare sessions we will be producing a ‘Return to School’ booklet for parents/guardians and pupils with a wider range of information such as drop off/pick up routines, curriculum timetabling and wrap around advice. This is likely to be shared as close to September as possible so hopefully (Fingers crossed.!!!) it’s the most accurate and up to date guidance for you all.

### **Finally (I promise)**

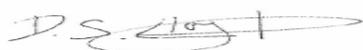
Although its likely to be an additional challenge to prepare the whole school site, classes and logistics in time for September, all staff are really looking forward to getting back to a degree of ‘normality’, albeit the new normal. Our tasks involve setting up many new drop off/pick up routines, staggering break/lunchtimes and amending both internal and external areas/classes, but having the pupils back with us and continuing to help them learn and develop will make it all the worthwhile.

I would like to thank you on behalf of myself and the staff for all your support, patience and understanding throughout this very strange and challenging time. We appreciate we may not have got every decision correct or met everybody’s individual needs, but we will continue to strive forward in September as we have missed the pupils and the ‘sounds/noises’ which make schools such a special place to work.

As I have said previously this time for you as parents/guardians has been challenging and your new and unexpected role as ‘teacher’ may not have been easy, but rest assured you have done an amazing job and the stories from Check In, Catch Up and Prepare have shown us you have been ‘fabulous’. Your child(ren) have continued to blossom and we look forward to continuing their journey with them and you.

Have a wonderful summer holidays wherever that may take you but please keep yourselves safe and well.

Yours sincerely



Mr D. Lloyd  
Headteacher