



Ysgol Tanyfron

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Headteacher / Pennaeth: Mr D S Lloyd

Chair of Governors: Mr S Wynne

19th October 2020

National Lockdown Announcement – 19th October

Dear Parent/Guardians,

As we enter the final week of the first half term, I write to you to provide clarification on the news statement from the first minister, Mr M Drakeford this lunchtime. Like yourselves, we have listened to the announcement and have started to adjust accordingly from both a personal and work based perspective.

The clear overarching message was that whilst many organisations, businesses and leisure services will close, primary schools would remain open as normal. Therefore as already communicated school will close for half term on **Friday 23rd October and reopen on Monday 2nd November.**

However, the wider picture remains clear that COVID-19 transmission rates are still high within the national and local community so we must remain vigilant and follow the main rules and regulations. As a result, I wish to keep you updated on some changes for after half term and the review of existing procedures.

Breakfast Club provision –

The governing body and leadership team has decided that we will continue to operate breakfast club for key workers only after the half term break. This has been a difficult decision, as we understand many parents/guardians require the service for their daily work commitments but pupils and staff safety remains our number one concern at this challenging period of entering a national lockdown.

On average, we currently provide provision for 25 pupils over all the 'bubbles' in school and personally we feel expanding on this number creates additional risks within the school setting. However, we have taken the decision to review the situation fortnightly from now on not half-termly.

Alterations to Foundation Phase Drop off –

You may have noticed that last week Mrs Jones (Deputy Headteacher) and Mr Wynne (Chair of Governors) undertook a review of the current practices of the Foundation Phase drop off. Concerns had been raised on social media regarding the lack of social distancing, the volume of parents/guardians on the roadside and the current lining up system.

Following the review to try and ensure maximum safety for parents/guardians and pupils we will from this week and officially after half term be altering the drop-off processes by –

- Pupils will have their hands sanitised by staff upon entering the school building not the 'gates' as current practice to allow pupils to enter school quicker and stop a backlog of pupils.
- Parents/Guardians will be encouraged to line up/drop off from both sides of the gates. The aim of this is to stop parents/guardians approaching school from the bottom of Tanyfron Road having to walk on the road to join the back of line up by the bus stop.
- Mrs Jones and Mrs Pritchard will remain on the gates to answer any queries in which you may have.

Where possible can you please ensure that only one parent/guardian undertakes drop off/pick up please. You can also continue to support us and keep yourself and others safe by maintaining a social distance of 2 meters when dropping off/picking up. Unfortunately, we do not have permission to mark 'crosses' on the pavement outside the houses on Tanyfron Road but your help on this matter would be appreciated.

We are hopeful that these measures will speed up the process of dropping off/picking up therefore minimising the risk of transmission but as previously mentioned please try to arrive as close to your drop off/pick up time as possible. I appreciate that parking can be difficult however we are seeing the Foundation Phase queue start to build up from 08.30am, which creates unnecessary risk with staff and breakfast club pupils trying to enter school. With the weather now starting to turn for the worse I personally, feel pupils do not need to be standing out in the cold for an unnecessary period.

Moving away from 'cash' payments to online payments –

As stated in earlier correspondences we will be moving to online payments only from **Monday 2nd November for any school dinner and breakfast club bookings.** Thank you to all those parents/guardians who have switched to the online system. Because of the new system we will not be able to accept any 'cash' payments on the morning for breakfast club and any 'cash' payments for school dinners will be returned to parents/guardians and future dinner orders refused until an online payment has been made.

Should you have misplaced your online number please contact the office by telephone daily between 09.00am and 12.00pm to obtain your number off Mrs Phillips.

Building work update –

The building work around school continues and a huge thank you to the parents/guardians of Reception/Year1 (Mrs Jones class) for the flexibility you have shown when collecting your child(ren) over the last week. It is likely that this week may be the same and Mrs P will provide you with a pick up point each day depending where we are with the builders.

On Friday, the contractors for the windows and doors will be erecting a secure compound for the half term week on the main playground. Therefore, Mrs P or I will be on hand to share any additional information at pick up time on Friday should it be required. All being well the work should be completed (fingers crossed!) over half term but should there be any delays, which would affect the return to school, I will of course inform you over the half term and before our return.

Due to the ongoing work taking place Physical Education lessons, this week for Mrs Humberstone's and Miss Roberts class will take place on **WEDNESDAY 21st OCTOBER.**

School Bags

Can we please ask that pupils only bring a school bag where needed. We are seeing a large number of pupils bring a school bag with an additional bag/lunchbox inside. Where possible please just send your child(ren) with their lunchbox. Some children are having difficulty getting their lunchbox out of the bigger bag.

I appreciate pupils in Key Stage 2 may need a school bag due to homework, pencil cases and lunch box etc but please help us by ensuring the school bag is as small and compact as possible.

Please note – This does not apply to Thursday/Friday where additional bags will be required due to Forest School and PE.

Parent Questionnaires October 2020 –

Thank you to all the parents/ guardians who took the time to complete the annual parent questionnaire. We received a large number of responses and many additional comments, which we will now use to continue to develop and improve school performance.

Over the half term, we will be analysing the results before drawing up an action plan, which I hope to share with you on the first week back.

As we approach an unusual half term period can I thank you for your continued support in what has been a challenging first half term back in school. Should you have any queries over half term or there be a suspected/confirmed COVID-19 case within your family please contact us in school using the school email address. For any other enquires please do not hesitate to contact me or your child(ren)s class teacher via SEESAW

Yours sincerely



Mr D. Lloyd
Headteacher