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Learning and Loving, Caring and Sharing  
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YSGOL GYNRADD Y SANTES FAIR  
ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Mrs R F Acton B Ed Hons, NPQH  
Headteacher/Pennaeth

16.6.20

Dear Parents/ Carers,

### **Update on re-opening of school**

I hope you are all keeping well and continuing to stay safe with your families.

I would like to provide you with a brief overview of the progress made to date in preparation for re-opening St Mary's to groups of children on a rota basis from 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Over the coming week, detailed information will be provided for both children and parents/ carers about what the 'new normal' will look like in St Mary's. This will take the form of an information handbook for parents/ carers and a leaflet for children, which will include photographs of classes and information about how they will return to school in a 'bubble.' We also hope to provide a short video clip showing all the new safety measures in place to support social distancing within the school site.

#### **Overview of progress to date**

- All children have been placed in year group 'bubbles' with some of their friends.
- Bubbles consist of no more than nine children, depending on the classroom capacity measures conducted in line with the risk assessment.
- Provision for keyworkers' children will continue in mixed year group bubbles.
- Cool Kids' Club is **only open** to the children from the keyworkers' bubbles for the final four weeks of term.
- Where possible, families have been organised in bubbles to attend school on the same days, within the same week. **Please note:** this has unfortunately not been possible to arrange for all families.
- **School transport will only be available to children by prior arrangement with the school**
- Each year group has been organised into four bubbles; Bubble A, Bubble B, Bubble C and Bubble D.
- Each year group bubble will attend school for 3 days only over the four weeks i.e. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday in the same week. (Information regarding your child's bubble will be sent to parents this week.)
- Each bubble will remain together for each session and they will not be mixing with children from other bubbles. Children will be encouraged to observe 2 metre social distancing, wherever possible
- Children may wear plain coloured shorts and t-shirt **or** their school PE kit to school. No uniform is required.



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- Each child will be given a designated desk, chair and workspace. Y1-6 children will hang their coat on the back of their chair and place their bag under their own desk.
  - **All FP children (Reception-Y2) will be provided with individual stationery resources for their own use whilst in school.**
  - **Junior children (Y3-6) should bring a small plastic, wipeable pencil case** containing their own stationery for their own use whilst in school. This will be sanitised each day and will be kept in school for the week. The children will take their pencil case home on the Thursday at the end of their sessions in school.
  - The Local Authority has advised that there will be **NO school meal service** available so **ALL children should bring a packed lunch and a water bottle to school each day in a small lunch bag.**
  - All children should bring a healthy snack to school for their morning break.
  - **Please note:** - Children **must not** bring any other personal items to school other than a coat, healthy snack, lunch bag, water bottle, plastic pencil case and a sunhat/ sun cream, in the event of hot weather.
  - There will be staggered lunchtimes and break times during the school day to prevent children from mixing with other bubbles.
  - There will be staggered drop off and collection times in order to support social distancing and to limit the number of people on the school site at any one time.
  - Some year group bubbles will enter the school via LEA ROAD gate and will exit following a clearly marked one- way system via the BUS GATE. Other year group bubbles will enter the school via the TOP BLOCK gate and exit following a clearly marked one- way system via the SCHOOL DRIVE gate. (To be confirmed in parents' information)
  - There will be markers to highlight 2 metre distancing expectations and staff will be on duty around the school site to guide parents, where necessary.
  - **Everyone must follow social distancing rules on the school site. Parents must supervise children at all times.**
  - **Only one parent/ adult** will be allowed on site to drop off/ collect their child/ren.
  - Mrs Acton, Mrs Jones and Mr O'Toole will be on duty at the school gates to monitor staggered entry of each child with their parent onto the site.
  - **Siblings** may come to school at the same time.
  - Until further notice, the school office **will be CLOSED** to parents and no parents will be allowed within the school building, unless in exceptional circumstances and by prior agreement with Mrs Acton. Parents should contact the school via email or telephone if they have any queries or questions.
  - **All parents/ carers MUST be punctual.** Please do not be late to drop off or collect your child.
  - **Home Learning** will continue for all children. From Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June, flexible weekly/ fortnightly learning plans will be provided for all children from Nursery to Year 6. This will take the form of a 'menu' of learning activities linked to familiar children's stories for parents to 'pick and mix' learning at their own pace and according to the interests of the children. (More information to follow.) Seesaw will continue to be used by teachers to share the children's learning plans and for parents/ children to post their work/ learning experiences.

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- Teachers **will not be able** to respond to/ provide feedback to children's learning on a Monday, Wednesday or a Thursday as they will be working full days in school. Teachers will however, provide regular and more detailed feedback to all children on a Tuesday and a Friday.
- There will be increased cleaning and hygiene control measures in place in school, in line with WG and WCBC guidance. This will include scheduled, regular handwashing, regular cleaning of work areas and sanitising learning resources.
- **School will be closed** to year group bubbles on a Friday for scheduled deep cleaning ready for the new year group bubbles to attend school the following week.
- In line with WG guidance, staff are required to wear PPE (items such as aprons, gloves etc.) to administer first aid and to tend to a child who is sick.
- WG guidance advises **AGAINST** young children wearing face coverings as 'it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission'. Therefore, the children **will not be expected to wear face coverings** such as masks in school.
- We will assume that your child will be attending school on the designated days **UNLESS** parents advise school otherwise.
- **Please note, under no circumstances should anyone attend school/ come onto the school site if they feel unwell, have any symptoms associated with COVID 19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature, loss of taste or smell) or if they have tested positive to COVID 19 in the past 14 days.**

I apologise for this very long letter providing you with a little bit more information about what to expect when your child returns to school after 29<sup>th</sup> June.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact school if you any questions or queries. I will do my best to get the further information out to you as soon as possible. It has been a very busy and very challenging couple of weeks and I hope you can see that we have undertaken very thorough and robust risk assessments to plan for the happy and safe return of our school family.

Many thanks for your continued prayers, support and patience.

Warmest regards,

Mrs R F Acton

Headteacher



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