

08/06/2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

Proposed Check in, Catch Up, Prepare for Summer and September

On Wednesday 3rd June 2020, the Education Minister, Kirsty Williams, published details of the next phase for schools in Wales, providing an opportunity for your child to “Check in, Catch Up, Prepare for Summer and September”. The Minister confirmed the intention that schools will plan to start the next phase on 29 June, with the summer term now ending on 24th July. Furthermore, the last weeks of this summer term will be used to make sure pupils, staff and parents are prepared – mentally, emotionally and practically – for the new normal in September. The Autumn half term break will be extended by one week. A summary of her statement and the main points are detailed below.

Your child’s safety and wellbeing are our priority and we are waiting for the detailed guidance that will help us to plan and prepare for this next phase. Welsh Government has announced that this further guidance will be published later this week. However, we have already started our initial planning and considerations, prioritising wellbeing of learners, staff and families to plan a phased approach that is right for our community.

We understand that you will have many questions and we are working closely with the Local Authority and governors so that we can provide you with the information you need to prepare for this next phase. Please, therefore, follow the link below and complete the online questionnaire so that we can begin this detailed planning. These next few weeks will be very busy as we work to complete our risk assessments and prepare the school site.

Please be reassured that safety and wellbeing remains our priority and we will write to you again as soon as more detailed information is available. In the meantime, the hub at Bodnant School remains open for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers.

<https://gov.wales/check-catch-prepare-summer-and-september-all-schools-wales-enter-next-phase>

SUMMARY OF MINISTER’S REPORT

Teaching and Learning

- The full curriculum will not be in operation but we will focus on teaching the core elements of wellbeing, literacy and numeracy.
- We will have a focus on teaching good hygiene and routines in the coronavirus world. This will include an induction on how all pupils must now operate and behave in school during these unprecedented times.
- Our aim is to provide an education for all pupils and a sense of routine/normality.
- There will also be pastoral and wellbeing sessions to foster good mental health within lessons.

Start and finish times

- The start and finish times will be 9:00am until 1:00pm
- It is likely that children will only attend for a maximum of one day each week
- Pupils must not arrive to school any earlier or later than the time slot allocated.
- All pupils will have a designated entry and exit point into school.
- No adults can accompany pupils into the classroom. Only school staff and pupils will be allowed in the school building and must maintain social distancing when on the school site. Parents may be asked to leave the school site if they are unable to maintain appropriate social distancing.
- We encourage all pupils where possible to come to school by walking or cycling.

Arrangements during the school day

- Pupils will be split into groups (bubbles) within their year group of no more than 8.
- Each bubble will have their own classroom space for the day they attend school and will not mix with pupils from any other bubble throughout the school day.
- Desks and furniture within the classrooms will be spread out to maximise the distance between pupils. The aim is for a 2-metre distance between desks where possible.
- In Key Stage 2 pupils will be allocated their own chair and desk space that they must stay at to work.
- We will insist on regular handwashing and hand sanitising throughout the day.
- Uniform will not be compulsory until the end of this term, but children need to wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

Breaktime and lunch times

- Breaktimes and lunchtimes will be staggered so that each bubble has their own space and time to be safe. Pupils from other bubbles will not mix during these times. At break and lunchtime, the 2 metres social distancing rules will still apply as much as possible.
- The school kitchen staff will provide meals for anyone who wants one for the usual charge. Orders for food will be placed earlier in the day.

The current Hub provision

- Pupils accessing the keyworker childcare provision will still be able to do so at Ysgol Penmorfa.

Distance learning

- The home-learning provision will continue.
- There may be changes to the regularity and volume of work set as teachers will now be teaching lessons during the day.
- We will do what we can to ensure this provision still provides meaningful work that will allow pupils not in school to still progress over time.

Behaviour

- The normal school rules and expectations will still apply on behaviour and conduct.
- Any pupil not following the social distancing rules will be removed from school and parents will be contacted to collect their child.

COVID 19

- We will not be taking pupil's temperatures on arrival as the science shows that many children with coronavirus are asymptomatic.
- If a pupil does develop symptoms they will be isolated immediately and we will insist on them to be picked up as soon as possible.

- PPE has not been advised in schools except when administering first aid and for our cleaners. It might be that some pupils and staff choose to wear facemasks.
- If your child, or any members of your household, display any symptoms of Covid-19 they MUST NOT attend school.
- It is important that the school holds up-to-date contact numbers for all children.
- If a child soils themselves it may be necessary to contact a parent/carer to collect them to reduce the risk of infection.

Please note that although we will try to ensure 2 metre social distancing, this may not be possible at all times.

Once you are clear about the above information please find time to complete the following questionnaire. This will help us a great deal so that we can begin the detailed plans which will need to be in place. Please try to complete this questionnaire by the end of the day on Tuesday 9th June (Tomorrow).

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NR7WYXM>

Many thanks for your continued understanding, support and cooperation,

Yours sincerely,

SADavies

Sharon Davies
Head teacher