



Pentrepoeth Primary School

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Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Tina Jenkins B.Ed (Hons)

5th September 2021

September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your child have enjoyed the summer break. I am very much looking forward to seeing our pupils tomorrow and welcoming new Reception and Nursery pupils across the week. I would also like to wish year 6 pupils from last year a very successful time as they start year 7 tomorrow.

My apologies for the length of this letter but I wanted to give you as much information as possible before the start of the Autumn term.

Operational Guidance

During the holidays, the Welsh Government provided schools with updated operational guidance. To comply with the guidance, the vast majority of our arrangements remain in place as the guidance states:

Schools and settings should ensure the following:

- Encouraging staff to maintain physical distance from other staff
- Encouraging staff to maintain physical distancing from learners as much as possible, recognising this may not be possible with younger learners
- Making the most of the space available, including outdoor space

A reminder summary:

- The one way system remains in place
- Face coverings to be worn by adults when on site
- Staggered drop off and pick up times in place
- No access to main reception or the building for parents or visitors



It is important to understand that our operations in school are far from back to pre-lockdown arrangements. However, the arrangements we have had in place have ensured that the children continue to learn efficiently and in a safe environment. With the WG reviewing the national picture every three weeks, we are keeping our fingers crossed that the return to school across the country doesn't have the negative effect expected and we will be able to make further changes to arrangements soon. We are aiming to take a sensible and cautious approach as the term starts.

We have been advised that there are to be no assemblies and no year group mixing.

Changes to contact tracing and self-isolation from this September

As we return to school, there are some new arrangements in place when someone tests positive for COVID-19. These changes have been made possible by the vaccination programme and the significant reduction in numbers being hospitalised and suffering severe illness due to COVID-19 over recent months.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 using a PCR test, NHS Test, Trace, Protect (TTP) will contact you, using the details provided when the PCR test was ordered. They will ask questions designed to identify recent close contacts of your child, and for contact details - if you know them - of the individual or their parent/guardian. TTP will then get in touch with these close contacts to provide instructions or advice.

Those who are under 18 or fully vaccinated are no longer required to self-isolate if they are identified as close contacts. But they will be contacted to let them know that they've been in close contact with someone who has tested positive. They will also be offered two PCR tests and provided with information and advice on how to minimise the risks of onward spread. If your child is identified as a close contact, they can still attend school unless they develop symptoms or are advised otherwise by TTP. Please continue to let us know if your child tests positive.

If a child tests positive, only a minority of their classmates will be identified as close contacts. But if there is a pattern of cases TTP may ask us to update you on the situation and remind you of key steps, including advising you to keep an eye out for new symptoms your child may develop, and to stay away from vulnerable family and friends in the short-term.

We do expect that there will be cases of COVID-19 across our community over the coming weeks, but this does not mean that COVID-19 is spreading within the school. Please continue to be vigilant for symptoms. If you are in any doubt, order a PCR test for your child at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling 119.

Anyone with symptoms - a new continuous cough, fever or high temperature or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste - should remain in self-isolation until the test result is known. You can find the latest information on self-isolation arrangements at www.gov.wales/self-isolation.



We recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that all families have had to make. Thank you for everything you have done to support your child and our school in the last 18 months.

Please continue to contact us at school and inform us if your child has to go for a test or has to self-isolate as a result of a positive diagnosis.

Physical Distancing

In line with guidance school needs to continue to:

- Reduce close interactions between all individuals.
- Support older learners to maintain /physical distancing wherever possible.
- All staff should adhere to the physical distancing measures as far as possible; however, we recognise that when working with younger learners this may not always be possible.

To be able to reduce close interactions, we will continue to have regular breaks for each year group, minimise the amount of movement inside the school and continue to have class assemblies and virtual, rather than whole school/phase assemblies.

Sickness Identification and Collection

Our usual procedures will apply if a child feels unwell and we feel they should go home. Anyone showing COVID symptoms will be kept separate (in a designated room) until they can be collected and taken home. In the event of anyone showing symptoms, Welsh Government and Public Health Wales guidance MUST be followed. Please do not send your child(ren) to school if they are showing symptoms i.e., dry cough, high temperature or loss of taste or and smell. Please notify the office of their absence in the usual way.

PPE

No PPE is required when undertaking routine educational activities in the classroom or school settings. However, PPE will be available to staff when undertaking emergency first aid or any intimate care of a pupil. PPE will be worn in the event of any pupil showing symptoms, whilst waiting with them to be collected.

Children's Wellbeing

We understand that many children may be feeling anxious regarding returning to school. The wellbeing of the children continues to be our priority and there will be plenty of discussion time with the children. There is lots of wellbeing support information on the school website. Click [here](#).



Start and Finish Times

A reminder of the **current staggered start and finish times**:

	Start	Finish
Morning Nursery	9.15am	11.45am
Afternoon Nursery	1.00pm	3.30pm
Reception	9.00am	3.15pm
Year 1	9.00am	3.30pm
Year 2	9.00am	3.30pm
Year 3	8.45am	3.15pm
Year 4	8.45am	3.15pm
Year 5	8.30am	3.00pm
Year 6	8.30am	3.00pm

Our **normal school times (pre Covid) were:**

School

8.50am Doors open - 9.00am School starts:

3.15pm School Finishes for Reception, Years 1 and 2

3.30pm for Years 3,4,5 and 6

Nursery

Morning - 9.00am – 11.30am

Afternoon - 12.45am – 3.15pm



We will return to these start and finish times from Monday 20th September 2021.

School risk assessments will be updated with NCC and governors this week. I anticipate making a few tweaks to the one-way system but will take advice this week regarding this. I will update you in a timely manner before Monday 20th September.

Breakfast Club

We will hope to start Breakfast Club provision from Monday 20th September 2021. Mrs Harman will communicate arrangements this week and new booking forms. If you would like your child to attend breakfast club then I must make you aware that children will be sat with table games in their class groups – however, the hall will be used and all classes will be in there, albeit distanced away from each other. Please see separate communication for further details.

Please only use breakfast club if you cannot make alternate arrangements to help avoid transmission.



After School Clubs

There will be no after school clubs until further notice. We do not want to start something we may have to stop and will respond to updated guidance as the term goes on and the situation is assessed.

School Uniform

Children are to wear school uniform. As stated in previous correspondence black trainers are acceptable instead of shoes, particularly if children are learning outdoors. I will update you in a newsletter in the next couple of days of PE days etc.

School Lunches

Please ensure you book your school dinner ready for tomorrow. School lunches will continue to be delivered to classes until further notice. For new Reception children, class teachers will inform you of requirements via phone calls tomorrow and office staff will be in touch with details of how to use Parent Pay. Menu available click [here](#).

KS2 Pencil Cases

Please could children bring in a small pencil case that remains in school. Thank you. Please refrain from bringing any other items into school.

Drop Off and Pick Up

- A reminder that there is **no parking available on the school site.**
- **Where possible please do not use your cars and where you can please walk your children to school.**
- **Please be considerate to our neighbours – do not block driveways or park on pavements in neighbouring streets.**
- **We ask that parents respect physical distancing whilst on the school site and not to congregate in groups.**
- Parents must drop off only in the drop off bay and not wait. (Years 3 to 6 only). Parents are still welcome to walk years 3 to 6 through the one way system.
- Unlike last summer Year 2 must be walked and not dropped off as from Monday 20th September staff will be in class and not supervising year 2 entering school in the same way.
- Children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 must be walked to school with an adult and dropped off to school staff via the one way system – **see grid on following page.**
- **For the first two weeks parents are able to drop off sibling groups at the time of the oldest sibling and pick them up at the time of the youngest sibling as last year . This will be reviewed when we revert back to normal school times.**

If you have already e mailed school to give permission for your key stage 2 children to walk home then this will still stand unless you advise us otherwise. Year 3 children are able to



walk home unaccompanied but parents will need to e mail the school office giving permission.

We are all hoping for a more settled year.

Due to unforeseen circumstances Mrs Jenkins, Mrs Gooding and Mrs Mason will not be in school this week. We look forward to welcoming them back in the next couple of weeks.

Mrs Gooding's class will be taken by Mrs Clissold and Mrs Ahern this week.

Thanks, as always for your continued support. It means a lot to the PPS team. I look forward to seeing you and your children this week.

I've washed my yellow jacket!!!

Best,

**Dean Taylor
Headteacher**



Collection Point 1 – side of/or Junior Cloakroom entrance

Collection Point 2 – Via back main gates into back car park

Collection Point 3 – via back gates on to F Phase playground and around the one way system

Collection Point 4 – via the turning circle and main entrance to the front of the school off Bryn Hedydd

No on-site parking is available for parents or visitors at the beginning and end of the school day. Drop off only in the mornings for children in years 3,4,5 and 6 or with siblings in those year groups. Children only to be dropped off and no parking in the drop off bays allowed.

	What time do pupils start?	What time do pupils finish?	Are you allowed to drive on site at the start of the day?	Drop off	Entry point to classroom	Collection Point
Reception	9:00am	3.15pm	No	Nursery Entrance	Nursery Entrance	Collection point 3
Year 1	9:00am	3.30pm	No	Nursery Entrance	Nursery Entrance	Collection point 3
Year 2	9.00am	3.30pm	No	Turning Circle/ Nursery Entrance	External Classroom doors	Collection Point 4 via Classroom doors via Turning circle
Year 3RD	8.45am	3.15pm	Yes - Drop off only	Turning Circle Gate	External Classroom door	Collection point 1
Year 3JB	8.45am	3.15pm	Yes - Drop off only	Turning Circle Gate	Main entrance next to office	Collection point 2
Year 4TG	8.45am	3.15pm	Yes - Drop off only	Turning Circle Gate	External Classroom door	Collection point 1
Year 4EJ	8.45am	3.15pm	Yes - Drop off only	Turning Circle Gate	External Classroom door	Collection point 2
Year 5JW	8.30am	3.00pm	Yes - Drop off only	Turning Circle Gate	External Classroom door	Collection point 1
Year 5TM	8:30am	3.00pm	Yes - Drop off only	Turning Circle Gate	External Classroom door	Collection point 2
Year 6GS	8:30am	3.00pm	Yes - Drop off only	Turning Circle Gate	External Classroom door	Collection point 1
Year 6RC	8:30am	3.00pm	Yes - Drop off only	Turning Circle Gate	External Classroom door	Collection point 2
Morning Nursery	9.15am	11.45am	No	Nursery Entrance	Nursery Entrance	Collection Point 4 Nursery Entrance
Afternoon Nursery	1.00pm	3.30pm	No	Nursery Entrance	Nursery Entrance	Collection Point 4 Nursery Entrance

