



Johnstown Primary School Ysgol Gynradd Tre Ioan

Heol Salem
Johnstown
Carmarthenshire
SA31 3HS

Head Teacher/Prifathro
Mr K McComas

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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your family are well and continuing to manage through this very difficult period of the pandemic with continued optimism and hope. Last week, the Welsh Government announced that schools would reopen for face-to-face learning for pupils in Full time Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 after the half-term break. On Wednesday afternoon, I received guidance from Welsh Government and the Local Authority about the risk assessments and operational plans on how we can open the school safely, week commencing 22nd February 2021. The information in my letter today is based on what we currently know and applies a cautious approach on our phased return to school.

Meetings with Welsh Government last week indicated that there needs to be further control measures in place in order to allow the school to reopen for face to face teaching. From after half-term, this will involve Infant staff using lateral flow tests for Covid-19 twice a week, staff wearing medical grade masks in all areas in school, and for continued measures such as year group 'bubbles' to be maintained throughout the day. We will also continue to be rigorous with regular handwashing, social distancing procedures and using the outdoors as much as possible. This will include increased ventilation indoors, so please ensure your child/ren wear layers of clothing as well as suitable outdoor clothing and footwear.

One clear message that has come from both Welsh Government and the Local Authority is that all guidelines under alert level 4 must continue to be followed. Pupils should not mix with members of other households outside of school, for example through being picked up by other parents, or going to sleepovers or parties. Parents must abide by strict 2m distancing rules when dropping off and collecting from school and **should wear masks at all times**. For all the latest information on schools including a comprehensive list of FAQs please visit the Local Authority's website carmarthenshire.gov.wales/education and follow @CarmsCouncil on Facebook and Twitter.

School reopening for Infant pupils

We will reopen to Full time Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 on Tuesday 23rd February 2021. The purpose of reopening to these year groups as they find remote learning particular challenging and scientific evidence from Welsh Government indicates that this age group has a lower risk of infection. New and part time Nursery families will be informed of their start date as soon as possible.

We will not be operating a breakfast club or an after school club during this period.

Pupils will be required to bring in a packed lunch throughout the week. School catering services will be able to offer hot meals from **Monday March 1st**. I will send you information about arrangements for the breakfast club, school meals and the after school club on our return to school. Families in receipt of free school meals will continue to be sent payments by the Local Authority while a school lunch is not provided.

Emergency Hub Provision

We will provide a very limited critical worker/vulnerable pupil provision in school for pupils in **Year 3 to Year 6 from Tuesday 23rd February**. We will only consider families who have already used the provision and we cannot provide this service for anyone working from home or those who have an alternative means of childcare. Even though under the guidelines you may qualify as a critical worker and your child could have a place, that place is not guaranteed. Please use the link below to book a place by 1.00pm on Wednesday 17th February:

[Emergency Childcare Hub Year 3 to Year 6](#)

Junior Pupils returning to school

Pupils in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 will continue blended online learning from Monday 22nd February. Times of live sessions will need to change to accommodate drop off times for Infant siblings. **Therefore, the online sessions will commence at 9.45am.**

I am currently unable to inform you of Junior pupils' return to school until the Welsh Government review on February 19th.

Arrangements for drop off and collection:

Please can you ensure you drop off and collect from school on time, limiting any early collections for emergency circumstances only.

Also, if your child is going to be absent from school, please notify us by 9.00am.

We have a large school population with limited road access and spaces in the car park. We will need your full co-operation in order to ensure a safe entry and exit of the school. Staggered start and end of day procedures will continue to be in place after half term and the foreseeable future. Drop-off times will be from 8.45am to 9.00am and collection times will be from 2.45pm to 3.30pm.

Nursery Pupils

Nursery pupils should be brought to and collected from the nursery playground gate where they will be met by a member of staff. The drop off and collection times will be as follows:

Full time Nursery - 9.00am to 3.00pm

Reception pupils

Reception pupils should be brought to the reception playground yellow gate. A member of staff will meet them at the gate and they will enter reception class through the reception door. The drop off and collection times will be as follows:

RBE – 8.45am to 3.00pm

RBS – 9.00am to 3.15pm

Year 1/2 pupils

Year 1/2 pupils should be brought to school via the yellow gate in the car park. Pupils will be met by a member of staff on the yard gate where they will then line up in the designated year group area. Parents should leave immediately via the one-way system established this term. When collecting your child you will need to wait on the school yard in the designated year group area. The drop off and collection times will be as follows:

1D – 8.45am to 3.00pm

1H – 9.00am to 3.15pm

2C – 8.45am to 3pm

2G – 9.00am to 3.15pm

Hygiene

On entry to school, and at key points during the day, all pupils will wash their hands supervised by staff. We will also provide hand sanitiser. We will provide all necessary equipment for the classroom and we ask that children only bring a named clear water bottle to school, a small bag with their lunch/snacks. Pupils must be able to put their own belongings on their peg/in their locker so please do not send in large bags which will be difficult to fit in their own space. Toilets will be designated for particular phase groups and there will be systems in school to avoid congestion in corridors. Frequent touch points will be cleaned throughout the day by onsite Local Authority cleaners.

We want to bring as much normality to the school day as we can, within the constraints we have in place. By maintaining good hygiene and social distancing, we will provide the safest environment for our school. **We must reinforce that if your child or anyone in your household is unwell with the symptoms of Covid 19, children must not come into school.** All non-essential visits to school continue to be restricted, but we encourage you to contact us via email or telephone, if you wish to speak with the school leadership team or your child's teacher.

Please rest assured that, as a school, we will ensure that we will work as safely as possible as we return to school in phases.

Yours sincerely

Kevin McComas
Head Teacher