IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE RETURN OF KS2 PUPILS(MARCH 15)

Our Foundation Phase pupils have now been back in school for just over two weeks and as mentioned in my last email to parents, I stated that I was hoping to adopt a similar approach with our KS2 pupils and have them all start back on Monday March 15th if allowed.

 Yesterday’s announcement by Kirsty Williams, the Welsh Government Education Minister, has confirmed that this can take place, so we are now looking forward to welcoming all the children in Years 3 to 6 back to school full time from Monday March 15th.

We also aim to fully open Kinnerton Kids Club from March 15th. Details regarding the reopening of Kinnerton Kids Club will be sent to parents registered with the club separately. Therefore, as of Monday March 15, school staff will stop offering Key Worker provision. If you need the extended wrap around care and are not registered with Kinnerton Kids Club, please contact the club directly for advice.  kinnertonkidsclub@gmail.com

Mitigating the Risk of Covid 19 at Ysgol Derwen

From reading the Welsh Government guidance and discussions with the Local Authority, the main messages about reducing the transmission rate of Covid 19 in our school will be:

* Teaching the children good respiratory hygiene
* Teaching the children good hand hygiene
* Frequent school cleaning regimes
* Reducing the number of contacts the children and adults encounter during the school day.
* Staff to wear face covering when in contact with other adults or when leaving their bubble. Staff will also be wearing face masks within the classrooms.

All the above were implemented at Ysgol Derwen throughout the Autumn Term.

What can you do to help reduce the transmission rate?

* *wear a face covering when dropping off or picking up your children*
* *only drop off or pick up your own children (unless you are a childminder)*
* *ensure your children are not mixing with other households outside of school*
* *ensure you comply with the 2-metre social distance guidance, even when wearing a face covering*

As in the Autumn Term, we will also be asking for your support in helping to keep the school and local community safe.

The vast majority of families have complied with the requirements set out by Public Health Wales and the Welsh Government. However, with the virus still in the local community and hospitals still under pressure,  it’s important to remind ourselves of why we still need to adhere to these rules.

Over recent weeks as the number of positive COVID-19   cases have been falling in Flintshire, one area of concern remaining is people contracting the virus whilst in other people's homes and children mixing e.g. Sleepovers, birthday parties, play dates, park mixing, family parties. Also shared unofficial childcare out of school time and lift sharing.

With the possibility of restrictions being eased over the coming months and to avoid any delays in this we ask that everyone does their part to keep our community safe.

We are asking parents to check that their child is not showing any symptoms of Coronavirus or any other illness before sending them into school.  With the new arrangements in place to manage learners safely, schools will not have the capacity to look after lots of children who become unwell with the usual childhood ailments during the day and make calls for pupils to be collected. For this reason, we are asking parents/carers to make the decision in the morning whether or not they should attend rather than send them in and ‘see how they go’. This will help to keep the numbers of poorly pupils to an absolute minimum.

We would also kindly ask if any member of your family has to have a Covid 19 test, your child should not be sent into school until the results are known.

Please make sure you are contactable throughout the school day to collect your child if phoned by any member of staff and informed your child is unwell.

It is very important that you inform the school of any changes to phone numbers/ email addresses etc. so that school records can be kept up to date.

Arrangements from Monday March 15

With the school going back to full capacity from March 15 we will again be organizing the school in the same four bubbles we were using throughout the Autumn Term.

These are the 4 contact groups within the school and they will continue to have staggered start/finish times and separate break and lunch times.

* Contact Groups:
	+ Group 1 - Year 5 and 6
	+ Group 2 -Year 3 and 4
	+ Group 3 - Year 1 and 2
	+ Group 4 - Reception and Nursery

From March 15 Foundation Phase children will continue with their current arrangements.

KS2 Drop Off and Pick Up

We will continue to use the same drop off/pick up times used throughout the Autumn Term in line with the risk assessments. We may be able to review this after the Easter break if infection rates continue to fall.

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| Bubbles  | Drop Off  | Pick Up  | Where?  |
| Group 1  Year 5 & 6    |  8.40am  |  2.40pm  | Year 5 = Car park Entrance  Year 6 = Main Gate  |
| Group 2  Year 3 & 4   |  8.45am  |  2.45 pm  | Year 4 = Car Park Entrance  Year 3 = Main Gate  |

We will continue to stagger the start and end of the school day to allow safe entry and exit to the school without having large numbers of children and adults present at the same time.

To help alleviate congestion outside the school gates we will also continue to allow children in the Juniors (Years 3, 4 , 5 and 6) to pick up their siblings to allow for parents waiting for more than one child to leave the site quicker.

* 2.40pm – Children in Years 5 and 6 will leave the site via the gates stated above along with any siblings in Years 1 to 4 .
* 2.45pm - Children in Years 3 and 4 will leave the site via the gates stated above along with any siblings in Years 1 and 2.
* 2.50pm – All remaining children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 will leave the site at their current set times and through their usual gates.

Please also ensure that you follow the requests below to help keep everyone safe during this busy time of the day:

* Once you have picked your child/children up please leave the area outside the school as soon as possible so parents in the next “Bubble” pick up can move towards the gates safely.
* Please do not congregate on either side of the Zebra crossing. We have had a couple of near misses this term when drivers have not slowed down when approaching the crossing.
* Please do not enter the “Keep Clear” box outside the main gate so staff are not coming within 2m of other adults.
* Staff will be wearing masks in all areas of the school site.
* Whilst I cannot enforce it, it would be advisable if parents who are unable to socially distance outside school while waiting for their child to also wear a mask.

School Uniform and PE Kits

The wearing of school uniform will be reinstated for all pupils from Monday 15th March.

We aim to promote safe hygiene practices; therefore, we encourage you to change your child’s uniform as often as possible.

How can we help with this?

Please do not feel that you have to purchase a branded uniform with a school logo. Jumpers, cardigans and polo shirts in school colours are fine.

On the days your child has PE lessons they can continue to come to school in their PE Kit. Your class teacher will advise which days children should come to school in their PE Kit.

Pencil cases and School Bags

Children will be allowed to bring in their own equipment for class use. This is for their personal use only and not to be shared with their friends and peers. Bags and coats will be kept in the class at their desk space. Please try to keep the amount of equipment and bag sizes to a minimum.

Google classroom will continue to be used to communicate with our children for homework etc.

Visitors on site

In order to reduce the number of visitors to the site, regrettably guidance still dictates that visits to the site for anyone other than the staff, children and pre-arranged visits from FCC staff will not be allowed.

Red Nose Day – Friday March 19th

To help celebrate Red Nose Day the children at Ysgol Derwen will be able to come to school in non-uniform on Friday March 19th.

As this date is also World Sleep Day (with the goal of celebrating the benefits of good and healthy sleep) the children can, if they chose, attend school in their PJs, onesies, dressing gowns etc and even have their wake-up hair style!

Any donations will be collected on the morning of March 19th.

 We are all really looking forward to having all our pupils back from March 15th. Thank you for your continued support during these very challenging times.

Stay safe

Kind regards

R Jones