

Thank you very much / Diolch yn fawr

As we break for the summer holiday, I would like to thank you all for your support throughout this incredibly challenging academic year. Everyone associated with Ysgol Derwen have done our utmost to provide continuity of learning and to promote wellbeing, often in lengthy periods of genuine anxiety and uncertainty. Knowing that the vast majority of our parents are sympathetic, helpful and kind has been a great source of comfort to myself and all the staff at school.

I also want to say a huge thanks to you all for the way you have supported your child and the school through the lockdowns, and also for following national guidelines outside school in helping to keep the whole Higher Kinnerton and school community safe. We have at times been inundated with information regarding children or family members having symptoms or having to have a PCR test. The fundamental principle is that the most effective way to prevent transmission of COVID-19 in Ysgol Derwen is to stop the infection being brought into our setting. You have kept the school fully informed throughout and always taken the right decision to keep your child home if in any doubt. This has greatly helped me keep the school open for every available session other than the nationally enforced closures.

Current daily numbers of pupils self-isolating across Flintshire are 3000+ with many schools having multiple bubble closures over the past year. Thanks to the measures put in place within the school and all your support at home, we have somehow managed to get Ysgol Derwen to the end of term without any additional disruption to the children's education. Fingers crossed we do not have any contact from TTP over the coming days leaving everyone free to enjoy the summer break!

September Plans

With the Welsh Government announcing earlier this week that they hope schools will begin to return to some form of normality from September, I would like to confirm that Ysgol Derwen will be reverting back to the normal school day from September 2nd. I have

included below the standard school day times as it has been so long since we were able to do so!

THE SCHOOL DAY

Nursery	9.00am to 11.30am (5 Mornings per week)
Foundation Phase Pupils	8.55am to 11.55am 12.55pm to 3.05pm
Junior Pupils	8.55am to 11.55 am 12.55pm to 3.20pm

All students will return to school from Thursday 2nd September. It is also our expectation that all students will return in full school uniform.

The school will open for pupils from 8.45am each morning to allow for all children to enter school during a 10-minute window. This should help alleviate any congestion around the school site each day.

Foundation Phase Drop off / Pick Up

- **Foundation Phase children will be welcomed at the side gate by a member of staff from 8.45am each morning and will enter the school through the Foundation entrance or go into the Reception Class.**
- **Nursery pupils can enter the school through the Nursery Entrance located to the right of the main entrance at the front of the school each morning.**
- **At the end of the daily session all children will be handed over to parents by members of staff from:**
 - **Nursery - Front Nursery Door.**
 - **Reception – Front Nursery Door.**
 - **Year 1 and 2 – From the Foundation entrance to the side of the school opposite the mobile classrooms.**

Junior Drop Off/ Pick Up

KS2 children (Juniors) can make their way round the side of the school building from 8.45am each morning and enter their classrooms through the external classroom doors as they have done throughout this year.

At the end of the school day parents can wait on the school yard and the children will be handed over from the classroom door.

When dropping your child off and picking up each day, please leave the site as quickly as possible to avoid upset to children and congestion which can be a safety hazard. We have not had the full details yet regarding wearing masks on site but with transmission rates still rising and expected to continue to do so during the summer break, Flintshire are currently advising that parents continue to wear masks when on the school site if social distancing is not possible.

The school will also continue to implement robust hand and respiratory hygiene as this will still be as important as ever.

If a child or member of staff tests positive for coronavirus or has any of the COVID-19 symptoms, they should self-isolate and not attend school.

Please also be aware that it is possible that the Welsh Government guidance may be revised during the summer holiday in response to the ever-changing public health situation. If further updates need to be communicated I will do so before the start of term via the website, our Twitter page and email.

Hwyl Fawr Blwyddyn 6— Goodbye Year 6

As this is the last newsletter for the 2020/2021 year I would like to wish all our Year 6 pupils the very best of luck in all that they do in the future.

They have been a fantastic year group and have had a very different final year in Ysgol Derwen due to Covid restrictions. They have coped admirably with all the challenges and changes and have been a real credit to the school and their families.

Most of the 2021 cohort will be starting in Castell Alun High School in September with five of our pupils moving on to different high schools (Caldy Grammar, Hawarden High, Chester Catholic High and Queens Park High, Chester).

We hope that they all have an enjoyable and productive time at their new schools and for their future lives.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a peaceful, healthy and happy summer break. We all want the new term to bring stability and certainty for pupils and their families. Whilst staff, students and parents associated with Ysgol Derwen have undoubtedly proven their resilience and determination during the pandemic, let us hope for clearer and calmer times ahead.

Stay safe

R Jones