

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I am sure that many of you will have seen the Education Minister, Kirsty Williams' announcement earlier.

That was the first time all of us as school leaders were made aware of the plans. I can share with you that we are all shocked, as the consultation for return was around limited year groups, as in England. I have been trying to prepare Ysgol Derwen for the return of pupils and was basing all decisions on there being very limited numbers of pupils in attendance and having pupils and staff working in "bubble groups". This decision today will mean a completely different approach!

What we do know, as the Minister explained, is that this will be a staggered return, with not all children being asked to attend school at once. She advised that this will be **up to** a third of the school at any one time. In order to accommodate children safely in classes and adhere to social distancing, no full classes will be in attendance. By adhering to the 2m socially distancing guidance the maximum number of pupils we can accommodate in a class is 7 pupils.

Children who have shielding letters, or parents who have shielding letters, should not return to school. We will continue to provide education for them as we have done so throughout this period. Equally, if parents feel that they do not wish their child to return, we will fully support this decision and continue to support the children through distance learning.

We do have a number of staff members who are vulnerable and who are shielding themselves. Kirsty Williams has stated that they will not be asked to return. This reduction in staffing levels will need to be factored in to our risk assessments.

Over the coming weeks, the staff and I, along with the Governing Body, will make all the necessary arrangements. There are many decisions to be made in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. Please bear with us as we work our way through this challenge. We ask for your patience and I will be in touch soon to ask for your thoughts and to provide you with some detail as soon as we have it.

Many thanks for your continued support and please keep safe.

Mr R Jones