

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE REOPENING OF YSGOL DERWEN (3) 12/6/20

Hope you are all keeping well. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to Ysgol Derwen and having some life back in the building!

Following the release of the Welsh Government (WG) guidance regarding the reopening of schools I am now in the process of organising the school day in line with the guidance. I will make sure I do everything I can to keep all children and staff as safe as possible during their short return to school. I am working very closely with other Cluster Heads, the Local Authority, GwE and an external Health and Safety company to ensure we cover all aspects of the the published guidance.

Thank you to everyone who has returned the questionnaire on time. 70% of parents indicated that they would like their child to return to school so numbers in school on any given day must be managed carefully. **If you still haven't done so can you please return your response ASAP.**

The school is set up to welcome children back (some pictures on Twitter) and I will be finalising the risk assessment at the start of next week. Once this is in place I will send out more detailed information regarding all aspects of how the school will operate for the final four weeks of term. As you can imagine this is not an easy job as children, along with a dedicated member of staff, will have to be kept in small groups (maximum of 7 in a class) with minimal contact with other children and staff. This group will have dedicated entry and exit doors to enter and leave the school, will spend all time in class together, spend breaks and lunch together, and will be using dedicated toilets. A one way system will be operating for the corridors. This will be happening while the childcare setting is running alongside in a similar way, with most children being accomodated in the Hall and again having their own toilets and outside playing area.

If your child has been accessing the Resilience Emergency Childcare Hub at Ysgol Estyn they will be prioritised a place at the childcare setting at Derwen from Monday June 22nd. Other places are currently being allocated and based on the responses received from the questionnaire we should be able to accomodate all the childcare requests we currently have . Due to Health and Safety guidance children and staff in the childcare setting are unable to re-join their year group to 'Catch up, Check in and Prepare' i.e. if your child attends the childcare setting they will not also be able to attend on the days the class are in. Some parents have completed two forms indicating that they would like their child to come to school and have childcare. Could I ask those parents to kindly resubmit the relevant form by Monday June 15 indicating whether they want childcare or up to four sessions in school. I know this may come as a disappointment to some children and I truly do sympathise with them. But the reality will be that on any given day, each class will be in different rooms located around the school with a small number of other children from the class. Unfortunately, we are duty bound to stick to the clear advice given and the WG published guidance with regards to minimising groups of children and staff mixing.

I can also confirm that if you have chosen for your child to return to their year group from the 29th June they cannot then join the emergency childcare option, or vice versa. This is simply to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

Therefore, due to limited staffing levels and the need to balance managing the Emergency Childcare Provision for Key Worker children (from 8am -5.30pm) we have designed the following procedures.

- In order for your children to safely 'Check in, Catch Up and Prepare' we have decided to ensure all children who have registered to return to school will receive **4** sessions, which will all run in one week from Monday - Thursday .

- Friday will be used to deep clean the classrooms which will then be left for 72 hours in readiness for the following Monday and a new group of children. Having adequate time for the school to be cleaned thoroughly for each new group is a major part of the school plans.
- Childcare will continue on a Friday for vital key workers.
- The sessions will have staggered start and finish times and may not be the traditional 9am till 3pm days i.e the day may be shorter.
- Guidance states that 'the expectation is that most school learners will attend 3 times.' So we feel, at Ysgol Derwen we are going 'above and beyond' what is expected from WG but still in a cautious and safe environment.
- To minimise the 'Footfall' in and around school and to allow us to stick to the social distancing guidelines, your child, when returning to school will be given a dedicated classroom and entrance which they will use for the duration of their time in school. They will also work with an allocated member of staff for the duration of the week, again, to stop the risk of potentially spreading the virus.

After the completion of the risk assessment on Monday, next week you will receive an email confirming the time slot that your child has been offered along with any other important information regarding the reopening of Ysgol Derwen.

Thank you so much for your continued support during these very difficult times.

Kind Regards

Stay safe

R Jones