



FAIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

YSGOL GYNRADD FAIRFIELD



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17th June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you and your families are well.

As we continue to navigate these unprecedented times, I wanted to update you following our letter on the 4th of June on some of the upcoming changes to support your children, either through childcare provision, or with the reopening of schools from the 29th of June. Over the past few weeks staff have been working diligently on developing plans to ensure a safe return to schools. There are a number of important changes you need to be made aware of which I have listed below:

Days in schools

The return to schools is part of Welsh Government's 'Check in, Catch Up and Prepare' strategy, focused on the wellbeing of pupils. To limit the amount of pupils on site and to make the environment as safe as possible, children will be invited into school on specific days and will be with their peers in groups of 8 or less for the day. We will share specific details on what days your children will be invited in as soon as possible. Unfortunately, we are unable to take requests for specific days due to the logistics involved.

The school will be operating under the following rolling programme for their year groups: Groups of max 8 pupils per day in each class, to allow for siblings attending on the same day. This structure would result in each group attending for one day a week.

Hours of attendance 9am – 1pm. Therefore, no lunchtime is needed, however pupils will receive fruit snacks during the morning.

Start and finish times will be staggered to ensure parents can follow social distancing measures when dropping off and collecting children.

Breaks will be planned during the morning, which will be staggered.

Toilet breaks will be scheduled to limit pupil contact.

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Social distancing procedures will be in place, which will be shared in more detail at a later date.

If you do not feel comfortable sending your children into school, then I want to reassure you there is no consequence for this. Children should only come in if you feel comfortable that they do so. It is also essential that you only send your children to school if they are well. If they show any signs of illness, particularly if they develop a high temperature, persistent cough or loss of taste/smell, then please keep them at home.

Childcare Provision

Demand for childcare provision continues to grow, as rules begin to relax in response to COVID-19. In order to ensure the safety of all staff and pupils, and to adhere to the guidelines set by Welsh Government on social distancing, we will not be able to accept any new registrations for childcare from the 22nd June. Any families already making use of this provision can continue to do so until the end of term. Parents who work in schools should contact the school to enquire about childcare.

Childcare provision will normally operate from 8.30 – 4.30, depending on the availability of staff.

Please be aware that if your child is making use of childcare provision, they will not be able to move across to school provision on the same day, and vice versa, for health and safety reasons.

Nursery Provision

Unfortunately, we will not be able to accommodate nursery children onsite for the summer term, given the COVID-19 risk factors, logistics of our site/staffing and adhering to the guidance.

School Meals

Please note that the local authority is suspending the school meals service for the summer term, to minimise any risks in schools. Fresh fruit will however be made available if children require a snack. Those children eligible for free schools meals will continue to receive vouchers.

We are also not able to provide a breakfast or after school clubs for the summer term for health and safety reasons linked to managing COVID-19.

Transport

Parents are requested to make use of active travel methods to bring their children into us on the days allocated. This means if you can walk, scoot, or ride to school we ask that you do so. If that is not possible, we ask that you drive your children in.

We are endeavouring to ensure that transport is available to those who qualify and have no other means to get to school, however please be aware that we cannot guarantee that all needs can be met due to the social distancing requirements on transport.

Communications

Please be mindful that national advice and guidance in relation to COVID – 19 continues to evolve and staffing capacity could also be impacted as a result of the Track Trace and Protect programme. Inevitably, this could result in plans being changed to reflect the latest

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position. We will continue to update you as soon as possible, but in the interim if you haven't already done so please follow us on social media and check in on our school website and the Vale of Glamorgan Council website for updates as they become available. Lastly, I would like to reiterate my thanks and patience to all of you and your children as we move along this journey together. Your support has been a source of strength for staff who continue to do their utmost to ensure they provide the best provision for learning and wellbeing both at home and in the classroom during these challenging times. Thank you.
Kind regards

S. Lewis
Headteacher

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