



Parent Information Sheet – Thursday 10th September 2020

Welcome Back

It has been a privilege to welcome the pupils back to school after such a prolonged period of absence. I want to take this opportunity to say how impressed I have been with the way that pupils have settled straight back into the routine of school life. Staff worked hard to ensure that the school was ready for the pupils and I am grateful to them all for their support.

The return to school has been extremely challenging as the guidance continues to change almost on a daily basis. I would like to thank you all for your support this week as we continue to make amendments to our operational plans.

Local Lockdown

As you will be aware, there is currently a local lockdown imposed on the borough of Caerphilly. I am mindful of these restrictions and the impact they will have on the local community. At Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School, our main priority is to keep our entire community safe – pupils, staff and parents alike.

I am sure you will be aware that the guidance requires an increased use of face coverings in indoor areas, and employers in the Caerphilly County Borough area will also be required to mandate the use of face coverings in indoor settings where social distancing cannot be maintained. This requirement applies to everyone aged eleven and over. Whilst the guidance states that face coverings are not required in school, I will be asking all staff to wear face coverings in communal areas from Monday 14th September.

I am sure that many of you will have questions about the new restrictions and how these will impact your family. All FAQs can be found on the Welsh Government page: <https://gov.wales/local-coronavirus-rules-caerphilly-county-borough>

As far as I am aware, at the current time there are no plans to impose a lockdown on schools. However, we have put measures in place should this happen.

School Times

Friday 11th September 2020 (Onwards – until further notice)

Year 1 - 8:35 to 9:00 – 14:50 (Main playground entrance)

Year 2 - 8:35 to 9:00 – 15:00 (Main playground entrance)

Year 3 - 8:30 – 14:55 (Main car park entrance)

Year 4 - 8:30 – 15:00 (Main car park entrance)

Year 5 - 8:30 – 15:05 (Main car park entrance)

Year 6 - 8:30 – 15:10 (Main car park entrance)

Respect Share Determined Passionate Successful

The school playing field is now accessible to pupils and parents. Please ensure that pupils remain on the path behind the fencing whilst work is undertaken to develop the running track. We will review arrangements at the end of the school day to see if the rear access can be opened.

SeeSaw

A reminder that we have been using the SeeSaw app as an excellent way to show work that is being done by pupils in school. If you haven't already signed up for this free app, I would certainly encourage you to do so. I have asked teachers to ensure that one piece of work a week is put onto SeeSaw for each pupil. I appreciate that parents may wish to see more but it must be manageable for the staff in the classrooms.

Fruit

We are now in a position to provide fruit for pupils in the foundation phase. The cost of fruit is 20p per day and I would ask that fruit money is sent into school in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and class. Due to the current circumstances we are trying to reduce the handling of monies through our Admin office. We would be grateful if your child's fruit money could be paid per half-term if possible. Should this not be possible, fruit is to be paid for on a Monday for the commencing week. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Transport

The school bus will resume from Friday 11th September and will collect pupils at the usual time in the morning. The school bus will leave school at 15.10 in the afternoon to bring pupils home. Please be aware of this slightly earlier collection time.

Milk

Free milk is available to all pupils in the foundation phase. This milk is kept refrigerated and sent to the classrooms for pupils to drink. Please inform us if your child does not require milk so we can ensure we only order what we need from our supplier.

Twitter

Don't forget, we are on Twitter! By following [@rhiwsyrdafydd](https://twitter.com/rhiwsyrdafydd) you will receive additional information. I have asked each class teacher to send their Twitter address home so that you are able to follow them and keep up to date with the work being undertaken in class.