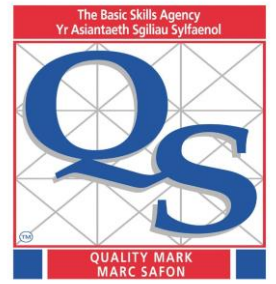


Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School
Maesygarth Road,
Oakdale
Blackwood,
Caerphilly
NP 12 ONA
Tel: 01495 222829
rsdpa@caerphilly.gov.uk
www.rhiwsyrdafyddschool.wales



2nd September 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian

We are really looking forward to welcoming your children back to school for the start of the autumn term. I would like to thank the school team who have worked hard to ensure that everything is in place to allow pupils to return to as safe an environment as possible. The safety of staff and pupils is our number one priority, although as I have previously said I am unable to guarantee a completely risk free environment. In order to keep pupils safe we have established a number of hand sanitising stations around the school and pupils will also be required to wash their hands every hour. In addition, the school will continue to receive an enhanced clean throughout the day.

Throughout the summer holidays, new operational guidance has been published by Welsh Government. This guidance clearly states that where pupils display symptoms of Coronavirus in school they will need to be collected immediately so please be prepared to collect your child at short notice. Whilst we appreciate that during the autumn term children will become unwell with coughs and colds, we have to follow the guidelines that are in place. Pupils who display symptoms at home should not come to school. In addition, if any member of your household is displaying symptoms of Coronavirus then your child should not come to school (please see information below from PHW). It is imperative that we all follow the guidelines so we can keep everyone safe. Please do not blame the administration team at the school if you receive a phone call asking you to collect your child, they are simply following the guidelines they have been given.

Public Health Wales advice on staff and learner attendance

Under no circumstances should learners or staff attend schools/settings if they:

- feel unwell, have any of the three identified COVID-19 symptoms (a new continuous cough, or a high temperature, or loss of or change to their sense of taste or smell) or they have tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 7 days
- live in a household or are part of an extended household with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

As you will already be aware, we have had to introduce staggered start and end times to the school day. This is again in line with the guidance we have received from Welsh Government. Once you have dropped your child at school please leave the area immediately and maintain a 2 metre social distance at all times. The school car park will

remain locked at the beginning and end of the school day to ensure pupils can enter and leave the school grounds safely. There will be no access to the school grounds from the rear of the car park near the playing field. This gate will need to remain locked at all times. Access to the school grounds will only be available from Maes-Y-Garn Road.

If you need to collect your child early from school for any reason, please contact the school office in advance so that relevant collection arrangements can be made.

Until further notice, all physical education lessons will take place outdoors. Your class teacher will inform you of the day on which day your child will have PE and on this day children may wear their PE kit to school. This will help limit the amount of equipment being brought into the school building.

Throughout September there will be no catering facilities available. As a result, all pupils will be required to bring a packed lunch to school. Pupils will eat their packed lunch in the classroom or outdoors if the weather allows. I will of course keep you updated with these arrangements.

For the foreseeable future we will need to limit the number of visitors accessing the school site. As a result no parents will be able to access the school building without a prior appointment.

I am really looking forward to seeing our pupils back in the classrooms and returning to some form of normality. Whilst contact groups will need to remain separate, children will be back in the classrooms with their friends where the focus during the first couple of weeks will be on their well-being.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any queries or concerns regarding this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C George
Headteacher