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12th February 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian,

I am sure, like me, you will have watched the Welsh Government news conference at lunchtime on Friday and heard the announcement that Foundation Phase pupils are to return to school for face to face learning the week beginning 22nd February 2021 with all Foundation Phase pupils in school by Friday 26th February.

On Wednesday, the Welsh Government finally published the “Operational guidance for schools and settings to support limited attendance.” I am now in the process of going through this document to ensure our school site is as safe as it possibly can be for staff and pupils. However, I need to reiterate again that whilst I will continue to do all in my power to ensure the safety of staff and pupils I am unable to guarantee a completely risk free environment.

We will continue to ensure that pupils wash their hands regularly with soap and warm water and hand sanitising stations will be set up in classrooms and at various locations throughout the school. Please remind your child of the need for good hygiene.

All Foundation Phase pupils will return to school on Wednesday 24th February. A separate letter will be sent to Rising 3 parents to arrange a start date. To ensure that contact groups do not mix we have needed to make some slight amendments to the timings of the school day. There will be a staggered start and end times to the school day as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
Reception	9.00	2.30
Year 1	9.05	2.40
Year 2	9.10	2.50

Nursery session times will remain unchanged.

All Foundation Phase pupils attending school will be required to bring a packed lunch until further notice. I am aware that the Local Authority are looking at the prospect of reintroducing hot meals and I will update you as soon as I have further information regarding this. Pupils must wear school uniform when they return.

It is imperative that all parents maintain social distance outside the school gates and on the playground. I ask that all parents wear face coverings when coming to the school to drop off and collect pupils. Pupils may be collected from the outside classrooms doors at the end of the school day but social distancing must be maintained. Anyone failing to abide by these rules will be asked to leave the playground. We all have a moral responsibility to do all in our power to help limit the spread of Coronavirus. This will help in part to ensure that our children can continue to attend school.

I am aware of information in the media indicating that school staff will be considered for twice weekly testing. I need to make it clear to parents that this testing is to be undertaken on a voluntary basis and there is no indication at the current time when school will receive these tests. It is my understanding that the tests will be the 'rapid flow tests' which gives an indication of a positive or negative result in 30 mins. I need to make you all aware that should a number of positive results be returned then it may be necessary to close classes at very short notice.

I need to remind you all again that any pupils displaying symptoms of Coronavirus should not attend the school setting. If you are concerned about your child then you should arrange for a Coronavirus test to be taken. If any member of your household is displaying symptoms of Coronavirus then the child should not attend the school setting until that person has returned a negative result. Any child displaying symptoms of Coronavirus in school will be taken to the isolation room and will need to be collected immediately.

There is no indication at the current time as to when Key Stage 2 pupils may return to face to face learning. However, it is my understanding that an update will be provided at the three week review which is due to take place on Friday 19th February 2021. Pupils in Key Stage 2 will continue with remote learning after the half-term break. Hub children who are already registered will continue to attend school as normal.

If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C George
Headteacher
Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School