



13th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families enjoyed the summer break. It has been amazing to see how quickly all the children have settled back into the routine of school life. For those of you who have children starting with us for the first time - a very warm welcome to you! We're sure your child will settle in very quickly and will make many friends as they progress through our school. A special shout out to our Reception children who are having their first full day with us today!

Adaptations to Covid19 Measures

Covid-19 Symptoms - The most effective way to prevent transmission of COVID-19 in schools is to stop infection being brought into the school. The most important thing to note is that any child with Covid-19 symptoms (*new persistent cough, fever, loss of taste/smell*) must still isolate and arrange for a Covid PCR test and notify the school immediately. If they display symptoms in school, they must be collected immediately. A negative lateral flow test is not sufficient to allow a child or member of staff to attend school if they are symptomatic. The current guidance states that contacts who are fully vaccinated **or under 18** and are not displaying symptoms or not required to self-isolate by TTP can be allowed to attend school.

Welsh Government have replaced the Operational Guidance to Schools with a Local Covid-19 Infection Control Decision Framework. Since the return to school, we have worked closely with the Local Authority to understand the implications and plan for any necessary changes. The framework provides schools with a set of control measures depending on the Alert Level determined by Welsh Government. At present this is Alert Level 0. At this level, here is a brief outline of measures which will remain in place at Magor Church in Wales VA Primary School and those which will be altered in line with the Welsh Government guidance. These are only a summary of some of the main points - we continue to update our Risk Assessment with the finer details. Many of the changes will not be outwardly visible as they are operational.

When the National Risk Rating is low i.e Alert Level 0, the framework requires us to continue to reduce close interactions and encourage physical distancing in indoor areas outside of the classroom. Regular lateral flow tests for staff are no longer required and face coverings are not routinely recommended, but may be worn by staff and visitors anywhere on the school site should they wish to do so.

Contact Groups/Bubbles - Guidance now states that it is not necessary to keep children in contact groups/bubbles from the Autumn term. These groups have provided unintended benefits such as more space on the yard at playtimes resulting in less bumps and falling out

and improved learner independence. Alongside this, we still have to assist in tracing contacts in the event of a positive case. We have therefore taken the decision to continue to largely keep children arranged in contact groups/classes for the time being to assist with that contact tracing and enable us to meet some of the other requirements such as encouraging physical distancing but...

- The full contact group will not automatically need to isolate in the event of a positive case – this decision will be made by TTP not the school.
- There may be occasions or events where contact groups do mix, but distancing is encouraged - for example: as we begin to return to having lunch in the dining rooms, or as we reintroduce school visits.

Hand-washing/Sanitiser – Guidance still requires regular hand-washing and use of hand-sanitiser and therefore these will still form part of our daily routines.

Ventilation - We will continue to have increased ventilation by opening classroom windows where appropriate and keeping certain internal doors open for airflow (*this also helps reduce the number of people touching the doors to open them*). Rest assured that the windows will be closed if the temperature is too cold for children to learn with them open! We will continue to use our outdoor spaces for learning, too.

Increased Cleaning – Enhanced cleaning is no longer necessary, however the school and various equipment will continue to be cleaned in line with guidance for infectious diseases.

Communication

Our main method of communication is via ParentMail. Registering on ParentMail allows you to download the free ParentMail App and have an account to view communications sent by us. It's the best way to ensure you never miss any important messages from us and means you can receive information in the palm of your hand, as soon as it is sent. The ParentMail App can also be used to complete Breakfast Club booking forms and any other general consent forms throughout the school year. Every half term we give a round-up of school activities and dates in our Magor Messenger.

Information on the learning for the term and other class specific information i.e. P.E. days/homework arrangements will be with you by the end of the week.

This year we will also be introducing a termly communication on our journey towards Curriculum for Wales 2022.

We also post school news to our [Twitter feed](#), and our website. You can find all the important dates on the calendar on the school website.

Start and End of Day Arrangements and Buses

We will continue with our current arrangements of children coming straight onto the yard and into class. This ensures a calm start to the day, has improved learner independence and ensured no lost learning time getting settled in the mornings. Staff will bring the class onto the yard at the end of the day to be dismissed to parents. Staff must be able to see who is collecting the child before they are allowed to leave the yard. If older children are walking home alone, please ensure you have advised the school of this arrangement.

If you arrange for someone who does not usually collect your child at the end of the day to come to the school to collect your child, you must let us know in advance, otherwise we will not release your child before seeking clarification from someone with parental responsibility for your child.

If your child uses school transport, please let us know the days they will be going on the bus. This is important so we know which days we need to put them on the bus and not take them onto the yard to be collected. If there are any changes to the regular pattern, you must let us know.

Dinner Menu, Parent Pay and Free School Meals

We plan to phase dinners back into the dining room during the Autumn term.

Those ordering school meals (*and not eligible for Free School Meals*) must ensure that their ParentPay account is topped up with enough credit prior to ordering a meal as your child will be unable to order a school meal if your account is not in credit. The cost of a meal is £2.50.

Your child may be eligible for Free School Meals. For further information and to apply, click this link. [Free School Meals & Uniform Grant - Monmouthshire](#). If you need help completing the form, please contact the school office and one of our staff will be more than happy to complete the form with you.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club has restarted this term. A booking form will be sent on Parent Mail every Wednesday to book a place for the following week.

Educational Visits

We plan to restart some educational visits this academic year, though only when we have carried out a full risk assessment as usual.

Improvements to the Building

Lots has taken place in the school over the summer... we've had a new accessibility ramp installed outside the Year 2 classrooms, the outside woodwork has been painted, the fence moved at the Years 1 and 2 area to increase the outdoor space and various other odd maintenance jobs completed. We are really grateful to Mr Harris, our caretaker, who does a super job of maintaining and improving the school. A new security system is being installed at the pedestrian gate at the top of the driveway and should be fully operational in the next few months.

Traffic Management

For safety reasons, only those on official school business or parents with school car park passes issued by the office can drive onto the school site. If you are walking through the carpark i.e. dropping off or collecting please can you use the crossings and only use the ramp or steps and not walk down the road. Please also hold onto young children.

I think that's just about everything for now. I have tried to include as much information as possible, but I am conscious that sometimes, these letters can be information overload!! If you have any queries or questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Cofion cynnes



Mrs S. Hamer
Headteacher