

Headteacher: Mrs S. Hamer

Assistant Headteachers: Miss L. Welsh, Mrs K. Gordon

01633 880327

magorvprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk

www.magorciwprimary.co.uk

@magorciwprimary



Sycamore Terrace,  
Magor,  
Monmouthshire,  
NP26 3EG.



17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Return to School – September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

What a year! At the beginning of September, I don't think any of us could have predicted what this academic year would bring. It has certainly been the most extraordinary time and one I hope we don't have to experience again. I would like to thank the Magor Primary School family for your continued support, patience and understanding during the last few months.

I am writing to you to outline the process and plans that in collaboration with Monmouthshire County Council and the Caldicot Cluster have been organised to ensure a safe phased return to school of all pupils. Please be assured that the health and well-being of your child and the staff of Magor Church in Wales Primary School has been at the forefront of all decisions made.

We are delighted with the Minister for Education's announcement last week that all children are expected to return to school on a full-time basis by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020. We are keen to get as many pupils in as soon as possible but will be directed by Welsh Government Operational guidance, Monmouthshire County Council and Caldicot Cluster colleagues.

Following this announcement on Thursday, the guidance was issued late on Monday of this week. Since then, I have been involved in a number of meetings with the Local Authority, Headteachers across Monmouthshire including Caldicot Cluster, and professional bodies across Wales to explore the guidance and understand what this means to Magor Primary School. During one of these meetings we were joined by the Minister and Fliss Benez from the Welsh Government Technical Advisory Cell. They explained the science behind the decision that it is safe for children to return to school.

The last few weeks have enabled us to put in place safe practices to ensure we keep the virus at bay and minimise the risk of a further outbreak thereby preventing further disruption to learning. Many of these procedures will remain for the foreseeable future. Please be mindful that guidance is constantly evolving and updating.

### **Start and End of School Day**

School session times will return to normal i.e. 9:00am until 3.15pm for Years 3-6 and 9:00am until 3:00pm for Reception to Year 2. The current procedure of lining up on the KS2 yard at the start and end of the day and locking the main gates of the school will continue. We would still prefer children are dropped off and collected by an adult. The yard gates will be locked at 9:05am, we ask that you arrive promptly. We ask that

no parent enter the school grounds, if you have a concern or feel you need to talk to a member of staff, please either telephone the school office on 01633 880327 or e-mail us on magorvprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Signage and posters around the school remind those accessing the site to adhere to social distancing rules and good hygiene. This system remains in place as we have a duty of care to parents as, at present, social distancing for adults is still a requirement. Please observe the 2m social distance rule and do not congregate or linger when dropping off and picking up. Only one adult should drop off and pick up children and where possible siblings should be left at home. We encourage you all to leave site as soon as possible and not to congregate in groups of any kind

### **Breakfast Club**

To ensure there is minimal mixing of staff and pupils, there will be no breakfast club provision initially however, this will be reviewed regularly.

After consultation with Monmouthshire County Council and in line with the other Caldicot Cluster Primary Schools, we are taking two days for planning and preparation at the beginning of September. Therefore, **Tuesday 1st September and Wednesday 2nd September will be open to staff only**. This time will be used to plan and organise the safe return to school for pupils, staff and parents. This will involve revisiting and redrafting our current risk assessment in line with the Operational Guidance from Welsh Government, revising our Health and Safety policies, ensuring staff are aware of safety and hygiene measures in place to ensure pupils and staff safety and making final adjustments to the school site and classrooms.

We will begin our phased return for selected groups of pupils on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. There will be a separate letter sent to our new Reception and Nursery pupils in relation to when and how they will start with us.

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Reception pupils only to attend their allocated times**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Reception pupils only to attend their allocated times along with ALL Year 5 and Year 6 pupils**

**We will be re-opening for all pupils from Year 1 up to Year 6 on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September when all pupils are expected to return to school.**

### **Catering**

Our school kitchen will be open from the beginning of the Autumn Term. Any pupils requiring a meal can purchase through Parent Pay. However, Monmouthshire County Council have made the decision that this will be a 'grab n go' packed lunch (not a hot meal) until further notice.

Pupils are still able to bring their own packed lunch but all remains/rubbish will be sent home again in their lunchbox to reduce risk of contamination in any way. We continue to allow pupils to bring fresh fruit or vegetables only for break time. Lunches will be eaten in classrooms or outside weather permitting and breaks and lunchtimes will be staggered to ensure safety and reduce contact between groups.

### **Transport**

We are awaiting further information from MCC regarding transport

### **Uniform**

Normal School uniform will be required when we return to school in September. Items brought from home must be kept to a minimum. Therefore only water bottles, P.E. kits, lunch boxes, healthy snacks and coats should be brought into school (**no pencil cases or school bags**). All must be clearly labelled.

If pupils need to bring medicines to school (eg. Inhalers & Epipens) please bring these in a clearly labelled plastic bag.

### **Wellbeing Support**

The wellbeing of our pupils will continue to be one of our primary concerns when it comes to returning to school in September. Every class will have wellbeing sessions as part of the weekly curriculum delivery. We will also provide ELSA support for identified pupils on a priority basis.

### **Behaviour**

Our school expectation is that all pupils will behave appropriately when they return to the school setting. Pupils will be reminded of expectations and revisit these with their class teachers. The health and safety of all and minimising of social contact for all is a major priority. As I hope you will understand, poor, or inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated. Children will be sent home if staff deem their behaviour to be a risk to themselves or others.

### **Cleaning**

Cleaning will remain a priority. Staff will clean touch points often and ensure that any shared equipment will be kept to a minimum and wiped after each use. The school will be thoroughly cleaned daily by Monmouthshire County Council Cleaning staff.

### **Handwashing**

Handwashing facilities will be available in every classroom. Children will wash their hands on arrival, before departing and regularly throughout the day. Pupils will be reminded to wash their hands carefully and regularly with soap and water. If soap and water is not available hand sanitizer will be provided. Staff will also wash hands often. Posters will be available in toilets and near hand basins to reinforce this message.

### **Sickness**

Pupils should only be sent into school if they are well. If any pupil is showing signs of COVID 19 you **must** inform the school.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

a high temperature

a new, continuous cough

a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

Please note that on arrival as parents you will be asked if your child is well.

Our usual procedures will apply if a child feels unwell and we feel they should go home. Anyone showing signs of COVID symptoms will be kept separate, in a designated area (there will be one outside and one inside) until they can be collected and taken home which should be as soon as possible. In the event of anyone showing symptoms, Welsh Government and Public Health Wales Guidance **MUST** be followed.

### **Childcare Provision**

There is no longer a requirement for Local Authorities and schools to provide childcare in the autumn term.

### **Term Dates**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Term begins</b>	<b>Half term begins</b>	<b>Half term ends</b>	<b>Term ends</b>
<b>Autumn</b>	<b>1/9/2020</b>	<b>26/10/20</b>	<b>30/10/20</b>	<b>18/12/20</b>
<b>Spring</b>	<b>4/1/2021</b>	<b>15/2/2021</b>	<b>19/2/2021</b>	<b>26/3/2021</b>
<b>Summer</b>	<b>12/4/2021</b>	<b>31/5/2021</b>	<b>4/6/2021</b>	<b>20/7/2021</b>

Our staff have really appreciated the positive messages and comments from parents throughout the last few months and since we have been back in school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff for working tirelessly throughout the whole period since we closed back in March. As in all schools our staff had to adapt very quickly to a new way of working and I am very proud of what our staff achieved.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish our leavers all the best in their new school. They have been a credit to you and us and we are very proud of them. GOOD LUCK!

Thank you for your support this year and I hope everyone has a very enjoyable summer break and I look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Thank you for your continued support.

Take care, stay safe!

Best wishes



Mrs S. Hamer  
Headteacher