**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE RETURN OF FOUNDATION PHASE CHILDREN AT YSGOL DERWEN**

As stated in my last communication, Flintshire schools are being directed to prepare for the reopening of face-to-face provision for Foundation Phase pupils (Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2) after the February half term. This is in line with the Welsh Government decision to bring some learners back into schools whilst other lockdown restrictions remain in place. We have had no indication yet as to when Junior children will return to school.

Although the Welsh Government Guidance implies that there is an expectation that all children in the Foundation Phase will have attended school by Friday February 26, we have decided that Ysgol Derwen will open to:

* All pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 on Monday February 22nd,
* And children in the Nursery Class returning to school on Tuesday February 23rd.

This decision has been made following the guidance issued yesterday by the Welsh Government, and also considering comprehensive health and safety advice, along with direction from the Local Authority.

**Mitigating the Risk of Covid 19 at Ysgol Derwen**

From reading the Welsh Government guidance and discussions with the Local Authority, the main messages about reducing the transmission rate of Covid 19 in our school will be:

* Teaching the children good respiratory hygiene
* Teaching the children good hand hygiene
* Frequent school cleaning regimes
* Reducing the number of contacts the children and adults encounter during the school day.
* Staff to wear face covering when in contact with other adults or when leaving their bubble. Staff may also wear masks in the classroom.

All the above were implemented at Ysgol Derwen throughout the Autumn Term.

What can you do to help reduce the transmission rate?

* *wear a face covering when dropping off or picking up your children*
* *only drop off or pick up your own children (unless you are a childminder)*
* *ensure your children are not mixing with other households outside of school*
* *ensure you comply with the 2-metre social distance guidance, even when wearing a face covering*

Arrangements from Monday February 22

* We will continue to stagger the start and end of the school day to allow safe entry and exit to the school without having large numbers of children and adults present at the same time.
* These will be the same 2 contact groups used within the Foundation Phase last year and these bubbles will continue to have separate break and lunch times.

Contact Groups:

* + Group 1 - Reception and Nursery
	+ Group 2 - Year 1 and 2
* The wearing of school uniform will also resume for all Foundation Phase Pupils.

**Drop Off and Pick Up**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bubbles** | **Drop Off** | **Pick Up** |  |
| **Reception****Nursery** | **8.55am****9am** | **Reception –2.55pm****Nursery – 11.30am** | Reception children will be dropped off and handed over to their parents from the car park gate as they have been all last term. Nursery = Nursery Door  |
| **Year 1 and 2** | **8.50am** | **2.50 pm** | **Pick Up Location****Year 1 – Car Park Entrance****Year 2 – Main Gate** |

Please also ensure that you follow the requests below to help keep everyone safe:

* Once you have picked your child/children up please leave the area outside the school as soon as possible so parents in the next “Bubble” pick up can move towards the gates safely.
* Please do not congregate on either side of the Zebra crossing. We have had a couple of near misses this term when drivers have not slowed down when approaching the crossing.
* Please do not enter the “Keep Clear” box outside the main gate so staff are not coming within 2m of other adults.
* Staff may be wearing masks if they need to be within 2m of other adults. Whilst I cannot enforce it, it would be advisable if parents who are unable to socially distance outside school while waiting for their child to also wear a mask.

**School Dinners**

Newydd will resume school dinners for all children at school who purchase one, but details regarding the menu are yet to be finalised.  Free School Meals to eligible pupils will still be provided in school.

If your child is having sandwiches, please make sure that the sandwiches are in a plastic wipeable lunchbox and NOT in a fabric packaging.

**Breakfast and After School Club**

As you know, our Little Acorns and Kinnerton Kids Club staff are currently furloughed.

Little Acorns will resume and provide Nursery Plus provision for our Nursery pupils who are registered with the club daily from 11.30am to 3pm, starting on Tuesday February 23rd.

Kinnerton Kids Club will not be operating for at least another two weeks from the start of the half term and we will do everything we can to reopen**as soon as possible and when we know it is safe to do so.**

The Council carefully monitors the incidence rate and test positivity rate daily and expects both to continue to fall steadily over the coming weeks. However, should the public health situation become a cause for concern ahead of opening after February half term, then the decision to reopen schools for Foundation Phase pupils will be reviewed and I will contact you with any changes.

Stay safe

Kind regards

R Jones