
Brynteg County Primary School Ysgol Gynradd Brynteg



Headteacher Mrs R Connell
Deputy Headteacher Mrs Firth
Secretary Mrs L Jones

Maesteg
Brynteg
Wreccsam
LL11 6NB
Tel/Fax 01978 756398

Sunday, 07 June 2020

Re-opening of Brynteg County Primary School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The return to school at the end of June is to provide the opportunity for all pupils, in the words of the Minister, to "Check In, Catch Up and Prepare" for the summer and Autumn term and to make sure pupils, staff and parents are prepared mentally, emotionally and practically – for the new "normal" in September. However due to the restrictions, opportunities for all pupils to 'Catch-Up' with friends and staff will be limited. Work undertaken by pupils will continue on digital platforms, whether your child is at home or in school. Every child in the school will have equal opportunity to undertake the same work.

This week your child's teacher will be contacting you to ask if your child will be returning to school when we open for four weeks on the 29th June. We need exact numbers in order to plan a safe return for all. We have to submit our risk assessments to the local authority by Friday so once we have your response you will not be able to change your mind, as we will be planning for the numbers given to us.

There are a few things you will need to consider before making your final decision

- Classroom environments will be totally different. All pupils will be sitting at a desk, 2m apart. Staff will not be able to approach your children at a close distance and children will only be allowed to interact from 2m. All reading books and soft toys and furnishings have been removed.
- Break times are likely to involve opportunity for exercise but again in small numbers and at least 2m apart.
- There will be no interaction between year groups. Pupils will remain in their allocated room with the same pupils (most rooms will have a maximum of 6 per room) and will stay with these children for the duration of their day. This is to minimise cross contamination between groups of pupils and staff. Their class teacher may not be teaching them as each staff member will remain in the same room throughout the weeks, once again to minimise cross contamination.
- Staff may be wearing some form of PPE, likely to include masks and /or aprons.
- The school is likely to only be open for 4 days Monday - Thursday. This will allow a deep clean every Thursday evening and the school sealed for 72 hours to reduce the risk of infection.
- Your child will not be in school all week and will not be in school every week. Your child will be allocated a time. These times will be non-negotiable. Unfortunately, due to the position the minister has put us in, expecting all year groups to return at some stage, it is highly unlikely that siblings will be in on the same day. We are aiming for each child to attend school for 3 or 4 days and nursery pupils for two mornings. There will be no Nursery Plus.

- Movement around school will be kept to a minimum. No Parents will be allowed on the school site at any time. You will be allocated a time to arrive and a time to pick up and be informed of which gate to arrive and pick up from. If you miss your dropping off time, then you will have to wait until every other child has been taken to their class base as strict movement around must be adhered to.

Our experience from working with children over the last few months

1. Most children aged 8+ understand social distancing and with reminders can observe a two metre distance well.
2. Most children under 8 CANNOT understand social distancing and despite reminders continue to interact at less than 2m distance. This increases the risk of infection dramatically. Staff will do their very best to social distance younger pupils but I am sure you will agree cannot be guaranteed.
3. Children are naturally anxious and can over think things. Seeing the school looking totally different, with hand washing stations, temperature taking and tables placed 2m apart is unfamiliar to the children in a school setting and does add to their anxiety and impacts on their wellbeing. You know Brynteg School and its staff well enough and they will work hard to ensure the negative affect on their wellbeing is kept to a minimum.
4. The choice of whether to send your child to school from the 29th June is yours. You must make a decision based on what you think is safe for your child and we will respect that decision to the full. Whilst we can make the school environment as safe as we can.

Whilst we have been active in working towards opening schools whilst providing educational opportunities via google classroom, we will not have complete guidance until 10th June giving us just 12 working days to ensure our schools are ready and to create a timetable for pupils returning hence the need for us to have some idea of how many pupils we will need to cater for. WG have stated one third of pupils at a time, being practical, we cannot fit one third of our pupils in school with 2m distancing. We are currently considering our options as what is best to ensure your child's and staffs safety and well-being.

If you have already made a decision we would appreciate it if you could let us know via your child's Seesaw account or send a private message on Facebook.

Finally, please accept our apologies for the difficult situation this places you all as parents in and hope you understand the very difficult situation the school, its staff and governors are placed in trying to meet the expectations that Welsh Government have placed on our schools so swiftly.

As soon as further information is available we will share with you.

Yours sincerely

Rachael Connell



Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes



Cynlluniau Ysgolion Iach - Rhwydwaith Cymru