



GwernymynyddCP News

4th December 2020

Dear Parents,

Traffic outside school

Having stood at the gate on various mornings and afternoons I am observing some potential risks to our children. Please can I remind you to drive carefully in front of school and also not park or drive up on the kerb on the school side of the avenue. Staff will not dismiss children until parents are close and we will not be dismissing children to you in a vehicle whilst driving past. Similarly, please do not drop children off in the morning whilst on the yellow lines outside school.

I have considered trialling a 'school based' one-way system for half an hour each day, this would not be imposed by highways but as a possible strategy to reduce the risk to our children. I wonder if all school traffic tried to arrive at school from one direction it may reduce the bottle neck of vehicles trying to drive both ways past the school whilst cars are parked and making it single file. Your thoughts on this would be appreciated for consideration in the New Year.

Picking up Foundation Phase children

I recognise the potential risk to our FP children in that the pavement at their gate is not as wide as for the KS2 children. I have asked FCC for two traffic cones, once received, these will be placed in the road for the couple of minutes while we dismiss children. We appreciate parents are socially distancing where they stand but this is not possible on the narrow pavement, standing in the road is following COVID guidance, however we are not setting a very good example to our children that you can stand and wait in the middle of the road! The class teacher will place them there when she arrives at the gate and remove them once all children have been dismissed to parents. We realise this is a road for vehicles, but while we are exiting from this gate we feel the safety of our children for those couple of minutes is key.

Children in Need

Many thanks for the kind donations via the Just Giving page. Across the federation we raised £316.

COVID symptoms

I want to reassure you that following our positive case in the Foundation Phase just after half term pupils and staff completed the isolation and have all returned safe and well to school. I feel that the key to reducing spread was the efficiency of us being informed from TTP and you ensuring that isolation took place keeping children in your homes and gardens for the isolation period. I have now learnt that the 14 days isolation is calculated from the last day of contact with the positive case, this is why children were not asked to isolate for 14 days from the day of the information being shared so if you are confused that is why! It is essential that you do not send your children to school if they have any symptoms but that you arrange for a COVID test and all your household isolate until you receive the results. If you are waiting on test results please let the school know and also once you have received the result (usually via text or email) that you inform the school of the outcome. Should we feel that a child in school is presenting with symptoms we will continue to send them home for you to arrange a test. This is for the safety of all children, staff and our community.

Along with the known COVID symptoms, if you feel your child is not themself for any reason please keep them at home to monitor for a day. We all want to enjoy Christmas and I ask that we all think of others and try to reduce the spread of any illness as much as possible to keep everyone's immune systems good for the rest of term. Thank you

Isolation work packs

This week we have sent home a small pack of work with each child. This is for you to keep for if your child has to isolate due to COVID. This may be due to a family member waiting for test results or the first day of a POD closure in school. By Day 2, staff will be planning work on the google classroom and delivering live sessions.



Christmas dates

Christmas cards can come to school on a Monday and be placed in the FP or KS2 post box, these will be sorted on a Friday by the School Council.

Tuesday 8th December – last date for you to email the video consent for our Christmas recordings.

Wednesday 9th December – Christmas dinner day, children are all invited to come to school in a Christmas jumper. We will also be recording the FP and Class 4 Christmas videos this day.

Thursday 10th December – PC Mark will be in school delivering sessions about internet safety and cyber bullying. Children are invited to come to school in Christmas jumpers again (washed or different ones to Wednesday please) Class 3 will do their Christmas video recording. No ASC, Christmas DVD night. £4 payable through Parentmail. The chosen videos are Elf for KS2 (who will be watching it in the hall) and Arthur Christmas for FP. Please can FP be collected at 4.45pm and KS2 at 5.00pm from their designated gates.

Wednesday 16th December – all Christmas crafts and cards will be sent home today.

Thursday 17th December – Class party morning, party clothes can be worn. There is no ASC today.

Christmas Holidays

The last day for children is Thursday 17th December and we re-open on Tuesday 5th January 2021. There will be **NO ASC on Thursday 17th December**, the last day for ASC will be Wednesday 16th December

With very best wishes to you all for a calm run up to Christmas and a very relaxing break when we get there.

L Ankers
Head teacher