

Gwernymynydd CP School

AUTUMN TERM INFORMATION BULLETIN 2021

Please take time to read the information below – there is a lot of it so maybe make yourself a cuppa too!

Welcome

What a busy start we have had to the new school year and so many new faces. I would like to welcome Marlie, Rowan, Giorgio, Luca, Jaxon, Marley, May, Emrys, Huw and Charlie to our school this year, they have all made new friends already and are settling in well. We have also had new staff joining us, Mrs Beck is teaching in Key Stage Two and we have Mrs Morrell as learning support in Foundation Phase. There are additional teaching and support staff in school working on a temporary basis in some classrooms covering absences or providing extra cover.

Consent Forms

Your child(ren) will be bringing home the 'Data Collection Sheet', please check the details carefully and return the forms as soon as possible, even if there are no changes the form needs to be signed and returned. Please note that 'Grandparents' is not a choice on the system therefore they are registered as 'Other Family Member'. Year 3 and those who are new to our school* will also have a copy of our 'Code of Conduct for Responsible Use of the Internet' and the 'Home School Agreement' to be signed and returned. It has been agreed these forms would remain valid during Foundation Phase or Key Stage Two, if you require another copy of these please contact the office. If there are any changes to your circumstances it is your responsibility to inform the school office.

*Please note: The Code of Conduct for Responsible Use of the Internet' and the 'Home School Agreement' forms have already been sent out to our Nursery parents, please return them to school if you have not already done so. Thank you

Communications

Should you require to contact the school, the office is manned from 8.30am to 12.30pm and from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. The answer phone is available if you call and this is checked regularly throughout the school day. If leaving a message please can you leave the time you called as well as your message. You can also email the office and these are checked regularly throughout the day. If your message/query needs actioning that day please can you ring the office rather than email to guarantee the message has been received.

School Uniform

The children have come back to school looking very smart indeed. Thank you for ensuring the children have the correct uniform. For PE and Outdoor days, children are to come to school in their black joggers, white t.shirt and black zip up jacket. Children can wear any trainers on these days and when the weather takes a more autumnal turn, wellingtons/old shoes and waterproof coats will be needed. Wellingtons/old shoes can stay in school for the term in a labelled carrier bag on their pegs. Please ensure all items of uniform are labelled.

Outdoor/PE kit days

Class 1 = Thursday and Friday

Class 2 = Thursday and Friday

Class 3 = Tuesday and Wednesday

Class 4 = Monday and Friday

We do apologise for any changes your class may have had, we are just adjusting to timetables and trying to find which routines work best.

Tempest individual and family group photographs

Tempest will be in school during the morning of Tuesday 21st September to take photographs of children individually and with their siblings. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to invite younger siblings to school this year. Please can all children wear full school uniform that day not Outdoor/PE kits.

School Attendance

If your child is unwell please do not send them to school. We have already seen an increase in sore throats, colds, sickness and diarrhoea. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea they are to remain at home for 48 hours following the last episode. This is to ensure they are fully better and that the bug is not passed onto other children or staff. Please can we ask for you to email or ring the office with details of all absences so that they can be coded correctly on the registers.

If children arrive after registration has closed (9.20am) this is an **unauthorised absence** unless a reason is given. Arrivals after 8.55am are recorded as **late**.

Holidays during term time can be requested. I can authorise a maximum of ten school days per academic year per child, however this is not the norm. If you take above this, the absence is recorded as unauthorised and monitored by the authority. Please can I ask you to try not to take your children out of school as this does disrupt their learning? If you choose to take your child out of school for holidays, staff will not send work home for them to complete.

Covid

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If you have any of these symptoms, get a PCR test to check if you have coronavirus and stay at home until you get your result, even if the symptoms are mild. Please can you notify the school if your child is going for a test.

FCC have notified us that there have been significant numbers of positive tests over the last few days across the whole local population. As head teachers we have been told that we do **not** need to advise TTP of cases that are brought to our attention by parents or staff – TTP will contact me as quickly as are able to let me know that there is a positive case in our school. Similarly, we do not notify you of being a close contact, TTP manage this themselves. Under eighteens do not need to isolate if they are a contact of a positive case.

Fundraising

Previously we have held various fairs, discos, bingos to raise much needed funds for school to purchase items such as electric tablets and lap tops. I am now looking to develop our outdoor space. We are desperately seeking extra ideas/pairs of hands to help us with events for the children. I know time is precious for us all, however, starting early I feel is the best way. I am hoping that we can set up a Zoom meeting at the start of October to plan the year. Please can you email the office if you wish to be included in this with some days/times of your availability. If you are unable to attend please let us know if you have any ideas for events/activities.

Class Information – Autumn Term

Next week you will receive a letter from your teacher outlining the week, expectations, reading/spelling arrangements and some information about what they will be learning this half term.

Class 1 = Nursery and Reception – Mrs L Martin (Mornings) & Mrs R Denham (full days) and Mrs K Morrell (Afternoons)

Class 2 = Year 1 and Year 2 – Miss A Prosser and Mrs L Hughes (mornings). Reception children join them in the afternoons.

Class 3 = Year 3 and Year 4 – Mrs M Newton (All day Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings), Mrs A Adams (Wednesday afternoon, All day Thursday and Friday) and Miss J Homersley (mornings)

Class 4 = Year 5 and Year 6 – Mr D Johnson (All day Monday, Thursday mornings, and all day Friday) and Mrs J Beck (All day Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons)

Mrs L Hughes is supporting children in small groups. Mrs M Newton is the ALNCo and works across the federation.

Healthy eating and drinking

Water bottles should be brought to school each day with your child's name on and stored in the tray in class, allowing your child to access throughout the day. Milk is given to FP children during morning break. Children are encouraged to bring fruit to school for snack time, we do find by 10.30am some are quite hungry! This can be a whole piece of fruit or prepared fruit in a tub/bag. FCC have asked us to circulate the attached leaflets regarding eating and drinking in school.

Reading and Spellings

Over the next few weeks we are completing various tests to give us up to date information for reading ages, spelling ages and maths knowledge for Year 1 upwards. Following this, children will be allocated their spelling groups and weekly lists will come home to be learnt for the following week. These words will be from the high frequency lists or phonic spelling patterns which will be learnt during English lessons. Children will all have access to Spelling Frame at home to practice their spellings in preparation for the online test in school, details will be shared with those parents who this is new for.

Nursery and Reception staff will be observing children while they complete the FP profiles.

Outdoor Wear

While I appreciate it is not always 'cool' to wear a coat, or if you come to school in the car you may not need one. However, when the children are outside for any length of time it can be cold. If it is damp or raining during a break, without a coat, children may not be able to go out. KS2 pupils are allowed to bring trainers to be changed into for lunch break and these are to remain in school for the term in a bag on their peg. All pupils should wear black school shoes when in the building – not trainers unless PE/Outdoor day.

Safeguarding / Child Protection

All Parents/carers should be aware the school has a responsibility to ensure the well-being of all children. This responsibility means that Gwernymynydd CP must adhere to the following:-

1. Have a child protection policy and procedure;
2. Make parents/carers aware of the child protection policy through the school prospectus. The policy requires that a child is referred to the statutory child welfare agencies if the school believes or suspects that a child or other children may be at risk of harm or neglect;
3. Endeavour to work with parents/carers regarding the welfare of their child and remain impartial if their child is being, or has been referred;
4. Help parents/carers understand that if a referral is made to social services or the police, it has been made in the best interest of the child and that the school will be involved in any child protection enquiry or police investigation in relation to their child's welfare and educational progress;
5. Keep the parents/carers informed of the welfare and educational progress of the child.

You may find the following helpful:-

1. familiarise yourself with your child's friends and routine;
2. be sensitive to changes in behaviour;
3. teach your child to feel confident to refuse to do anything they feel is wrong;
4. be aware of your child's use of the internet and mobile phone to ensure they don't place themselves at risk.

Mrs Ankers, Mr Johnson and Mrs Sian Parry are all trained to Level 3 Child Protection and all other staff are trained to Level 1.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Medical forms

If your child requires medicine at all during the school day a member of staff will administer this once a medical form has been completed. These are available from the office. Please ensure you hand all medicines to a member of staff and not leave them in school bags.

For children who have asthma, please can we ask for a named spacer and Ventolin to be brought to school for us to keep in the staffroom.

Head lice

Please can we remind you to check hair for lice and eggs regularly.

Flu Spray

Before we finished for summer children brought home A5 envelopes with information about the Flu spray for children aged Reception to Year 6. These were collected by the

School Health Team. We have been given the date of Tuesday 16th November for our children to receive their spray in school if you gave consent. As these forms are not read by us we do not hold the information as to who is receiving them or not, the school health team manage it all on the day. We have been given the links below if you wanted to share a short video with your child before the day. Any information we receive from the health team we will share with you. For any new children to our school who were not with us in July I am waiting to hear about new forms for you.

- English subtitle: https://youtu.be/0HX8Cvy_16A
- Welsh subtitle: <https://youtu.be/UXHLLaMsv6c>
- English: <https://youtu.be/w5LBU9Klay8>
- Welsh: <https://youtu.be/4rBN-l1ahzc>

To confirm the school is closed to children on ...

Wednesday 22nd December – day in lieu of the additional bank holiday

Monday 25th April – Staff training day 3 of 6

Friday 27th May – Staff training day 4 of 6

Monday 6th June – Staff training day 5 of 6

Wednesday 20th July – Staff training day 6 of 6

Concerns/Complaints Procedure

Should you have any concerns about the welfare of your child in school please do not hesitate to contact us – as we explain to the children if we do not know about things, we cannot make them better. The procedure for raising concerns is that you firstly approach the class teacher, this can either be done by sending a note in requesting a call or appointment or telephoning the office. We do find that on occasions children come home and retell an upsetting event from the day, if you contact us straight away we can usually put your mind at ease and resolve the situation. If you feel the situation has not been resolved, then please contact myself who will investigate further.

Safety

Following County and WG safeguarding procedures the school vehicle gates are closed between the hours of 9.00am and 4.30pm daily and pedestrian gate from 8.55am for the full day, with the exception of when staff are dismissing children at home time.

Please can I ask you to consider the residents of Gwernymynydd when parking your car and ensure you are not blocking driveways.

Breakfast Club

This club is partly funded by a grant from the WG to Flintshire Council. We have two members of staff each day who work in the hall. Children are invited to attend from 7.45am until 8.45am. All children require an adult to bring them to the door with the exception of Year 6 pupils who can arrive independently and with a KS2 sibling. Children are supervised until the start of the school day when teaching staff are on duty. Due to WG funds, as of April 1st 2016, only 30 minutes per day are funded, therefore, children arriving before 8.15am will be charged £1.50 per child, this provision is 'Early Risers'. Children arriving between 8.15am and 8.30am will access the WG 'Free Breakfast Club' and be supervised until they go to class at 8.45am. Payments are made via the Parentmail app.

School dinners

All meals are £2.30 per day £11.50 per week. The menu is also sent as an attachment to this email. Please ensure that payment for school meals is made promptly. Attached to this email is the 3-week rolling menu for the term. 6th September is week 1, 13th September is week 2 and 20th September is week 3.

After School Club

After school club is open Monday to Friday 3.00pm – 5.30pm in the School hall for all full-time children. This is run by Miss J Homersley, Mrs B Williams and Miss C Jones. Registration forms will be sent home, please can you complete and return to ensure we have up to date details on record. Please can we remind you that children must be booked into the club, ideally by completing the weekly Google form which is sent from the office on a Monday or telephoning the school office for short notice requests. If you have booked your child in and no longer need the place please can you let school know as someone else may want the place.

Extra Curricular Activities

These will be starting shortly for Key Stage Two children. We are currently asking the children what clubs they would like before we confirm with yourselves.

Hafod Federation Code of Conduct

Should any parent/visitor to the school exhibit disruptive or abusive behaviour on school premises the school will contact the appropriate authorities and if necessary refuse the offending person/s entry to the school grounds.

Hafod Federation Social Media

The Hafod Federation endeavours to provide the best service we can to our pupils and families. Unfortunately, on occasion, you may feel that we have not achieved this. Should this be the case, we request that you contact the school directly to discuss the situation rather than sharing your comments on a social media platform.

If we become aware that inappropriate content has been posted online (this includes defamatory statements or personal comments, particularly those concerning violence) then we will ask you to attend a meeting to discuss the situation.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for the support shown to us over the last 18 months and to say how much I am looking forward to this new school year.

L.K Ankers
Headteacher