

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community

Cymuned Ddysgu Ebwy Fawr

Headteacher / Prifathro: Mr. H. R. Lloyd, BA Hons, MSc

W: www.ebbwfawr.co.uk

Our Ref MTH/JSM

17 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing as promised to provide you with more information regarding the return of pupils to Ebbw Fawr Secondary on Monday 29 June 2020 to **'Check-in, Catch up and Prepare for Summer and September'**. Please be assured that as a school we have worked tirelessly to ensure that we have met all of the government guidelines recommended for working safely for both staff and pupils. A huge thank you to everyone who has filled in the admission questionnaire to date. Hopefully, the information below will provide answers to many of the questions that were asked.

Numbers of pupils in the building

Not all pupils will return to school every day. Year groups will be given an allocated day to attend – see below. To ensure that we adhere to social distancing rules the maximum number of children on any given day will be the number in the allocated cohort. Year 10 have been allocated 2 days as we recognise that these learners will soon be commencing their final examination year.

Date	Year Group	Day of the Week	No in cohort
29/06	10	Monday	165
30/06	10	Tuesday	165
01/07	7	Wednesday	201
02/07	8	Thursday	190
03/07	9	Friday	163

Bubbles

All pupils in each year group will be allocated to a bubble within a wing of the school. Each bubble will hold only 9 children and 1 teacher. Desks have been spaced to factor in 2m social distance within each bubble. We have placed a video of how this will look on our Website and Facebook page. Our bubbles will remain constant, regardless of numbers of children that attend. There will be no merging of bubbles if numbers are low; **this will protect both staff and pupils.**

Staff and pupils will be required to use the allocated toileting facilities in each wing. Staff will be reminded to keep windows open to let in fresh air and ensure there is natural sunlight within their bubble. The airflow and ventilation will also be increased where possible across the school.



Staggered Start and Finish Times

The school day will run from 8.30am – 12.45pm. We aim to stagger arrival and departure times for bubbles of children to ensure that movement and concentration of staff and learners is minimised. Break times for children and staff will also be staggered. Staff and pupils will be expected to remain in their allocated areas for their break, but on dry days children will be encouraged to go outside for fresh air and hopefully sunlight.

Entrances / Exits

Children and staff will be allocated a designated entrance and exit in conjunction with the bubble allocated to them. We will notify you which entrance your child should use.

School Meals

As our sessions are ending at 12.45pm there will be no meals provided at lunchtime for any learners. For the first week only, a snack and drink will be provided for all pupils at mid-morning break. For the duration of the following weeks, pupils will be encouraged to bring a snack and drink for their mid-morning break. Pupils eligible for free school meals will continue to receive their direct payments electronically.

Transport

Currently school transport is a challenge, and we are still looking at solutions with the local authority to ensure that all learners who travel by bus are still able to attend school. For the interim period, we are actively encouraging pupils to cycle, scoot, walk to school or brought in by parents until the end of term.

Blended Learning

The biggest change for EFLC is that due to physical distancing guidance, fewer pupils will attend our school at any one time, and because of this, pupils will now have a mix of learning at school and at home. This is called 'blended learning'. On the days that pupils do not attend school, learners will be able to access their digital on-line learning, which will complement their school learning.

When children return to school on Monday 29 June we will initially focus the day on well-being and mental health. We understand that many adults have struggled to cope during this unprecedented time, so we are keen to support our learners to understand this new 'normal' way of life and subsequently we will be exploring mental health and ways to keep safe.

We also appreciate that many learners are still struggling to access their learning on-line so technical support and guidance will be provided to ensure that learners do not fall behind over the summer.

Finally, we are keen to ensure that when learners are in school they experience live lessons from their teachers. During the first week Maths, English and Science teachers will be providing lessons to all of our learners in year 10. Similarly, we will be offering a similar suite of live lessons to all other year groups, including looking at the current 'BlackLivesMatter' Movement. Please remember that these live lessons will complement the learning set for home.

Equipment and Resources

Children will need to bring in their own resources to reduce the risk of cross contamination which could develop from sharing pens / pencils etc. Numbered chrome books will be provided for children to work on during learning sessions. These will be cleaned regularly.

Dress Code

The government recommends that pupils should try to ensure that clothing worn to school is washed every day. With this in mind we have made the decision to relax the full uniform rules at the secondary phase. However, we would still like our learners to be smart, ready to learn and ready to catch-up. Subsequently, children will be able to choose to either wear black trousers, white shirt and black shoes or their school PE kit. There will be no requirement to wear a tie or blazer.

Behaviour

As always, we expect high levels of behaviour; good behaviour is something we pride ourselves on. On arrival, pupils will be reminded of the rules that we must all abide by to keep safe. Please take the opportunity to remind your son/daughter that learners must maintain their 2m distance from friends and staff at all times. Regretfully, any learner who behaves in a way that poses a risk to other learners and staff will be directed to the senior leadership team and parents contacted.

Safety Messages

Safety measures and messages will be displayed on digital signage around the school. Visitors will not be permitted on-site.

Hygiene and Cleaning

Learners will be expected to wash their hands-on arrival at the building and will be guided to wash their hands throughout the day. A hygiene station including hand sanitiser and anti-bac wipes will be available in all classroom areas for staff and pupils. PPE will be available on site for all of our teachers. Current guidance suggests that PPE is optional for teachers. Children will not be required to wear masks.

Throughout the school day we will employ an enhanced cleaning regime. Cleaners will be on site in the mornings, prior to the building opening to staff and pupils, during the day for key areas and at the end of the day for a further deep clean.

Vulnerable Children

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school.

Illness

Please do not send your child to school if they have any symptoms linked to Covid 19. If a young person or adult is taken ill while in school, we have a designated room with limited PPE and will contact you to collect your child. In case of Covid 19 symptoms the child must stay home for at least 7 days and the rest of the family should self-isolate for up to 14 days. Should the test result in the meantime be negative they can return to school for the next session. The school may have

to ask 'bubbles' of staff and pupils to self-isolate should a case be confirmed and the Trace, Track, Protect may make contact to recommend this. The strict adherence to bubbles will help to minimise the risk of transmission between groups and limits the impact of any self-isolation required due to a staff member or learner testing positive.

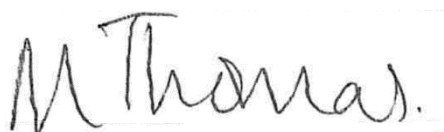
It is vitally important that we know your child is going to attend school. If you have not responded to the survey that was sent by text to parents, we urge you to contact the school so that our registers can be amended.

I appreciate that this is a very stressful time for both learners and parents / carers, but we truly believe that at Ebbw Fawr we are doing everything we possibly can to mitigate the risks. We really would love to see as many learners return as possible but we appreciate that many families may still have concerns over safety and choose not to send their child to school; as a school we will be supportive of all families regardless of the decisions they make.

However, if you are still undecided, either way, please do not hesitate to contact me on mthomas@ebbwfawr.co.uk. Alternatively, you can telephone us on 01495 354690.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming your child back.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Thomas." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Mrs M Thomas
Head of Secondary