



16th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you are all safe and well. We are really looking forward to welcoming you to Porth Community School in September and I do hope your child is very excited about coming. You will already be familiar with the significant changes in the way schools operate at the moment. I have received the full guidance from Welsh Governance and the Local Authority for the opening of schools to all pupils in September. In this letter I am going to share with you what your children will experience when they start at this school. Please discuss this with your child to help prepare them. I also need to make you aware that the guidance is subject to change. If there are any changes which alter the way that the school will run, I will keep you informed via the Piota App, which can be downloaded via Google Play or the App Store.

Health and Safety

The school will have in place a full Risk Assessment which is being written with the support of the Local Authority. The Risk Assessment will be agreed with the Local Authority and by the Governing Body. It is seated within Welsh Government guidance. The full risk assessment will be available to view on the school website and you will receive notification via the Piota app when this is the case. **Any child behaving in a way which impacts on the Health and Safety of others will be severely dealt with and may be excluded from lessons or school.**

Cleaning

Regular cleaning will take place across the day. Cleaners will be on site in the mornings, prior to staff and pupils arriving, during the day for key areas and at the end of the day for a further clean. Classrooms will be cleaned before they are used by pupils. The dining hall will be cleaned between each lunch sitting. Toilets will be regularly cleaned.

Toilets

Toilets will be supervised across lunch and breaks. If your child wishes to use the toilet during a class session they will be collected and supervised. Children must wash their hands after using the toilet to reduce the chance of disease transmission. Toilet areas will be cleaned across the day.

All toilets will be designated for year groups in Nythbran. Some toilets will be unisex to facilitate this. Unisex toilets are open plan with full length doors from floor to ceiling for privacy.

Headteacher – Yvonne Jones

Dress Code

All children will be expected to wear school uniform. The advice the school has received is to recommend to parents that school clothing is washed daily where possible to reduce chances of disease transmission.

Children will need to bring appropriate clothing for outdoor breaks in all weathers.

Breakfast Club and After School Clubs

In the first instance these will not run in line with RCT guidance. This decision will be reviewed regularly across the half term.

Equipment for Learning

All equipment for learning will be provided by the school including pens, pencils etc. Children should bring no more than a small bag for personal belongings. Toys etc may not be brought in. Mobile phones and other electronic devices may only be used in line with current school policy. Where phones and other devices are used inappropriately they will be confiscated in line with this policy.

Lunchtime and Break times

These will be staggered and children will be kept within their contact groups. Cooked lunches will be provided, however this will be a more limited menu than previously. Details on how to pay will be confirmed upon receipt of further guidance.

All children will eat lunch in the dining hall. This includes packed lunches.

Pupil Groupings

Children will be grouped in contact groups in line with the Welsh Government and Local Authority Guidance. Children will only interact with others within their contact group and even within these groups contact will be limited. Class sizes will be limited to 30 pupils. Pupils will remain seated during the lesson and will face the front of the class. The teacher, where possible, will deliver the lesson from the front maintaining a 2m distance from the children. Staff providing support for pupils will only work with an individual child or group of children from the same contact group at a time and will maintain a 2m distance from the children. This is to reduce the risk of Covid – 19 transmissions. When outside children will be encouraged to maintain a 2m social distance to reduce the number of incidences of close contact across the day. Children will be sat in an allocated seat in their classes and will not be able to change to another class.

In Year 7 the contact group will be their tutor group, children will remain in this group for all lessons and will take breaks and lunch with their tutor group.

Children in the Learning Support Classes in Nythbran will remain in the Learning Support base across the day.

Headteacher – Yvonne Jones

Return to school dates/Start and end times/Arrival to and from school

The date for the return of children to school in September will be staggered by year group. Start and end times for the school day will also be staggered. It is important that times for arrival and pick-up are strictly adhered to, so that we can safely maintain the contact groups that the children will be allocated within and for the protection of the staff. Pupils must also only enter the school through the allocated entrances. It is strongly advised that one adult only brings children to school. Can I also remind you that parents and children should not congregate outside the school gates. Where possible children should safely walk to school and minimise use of public transport. Parents dropping off and picking up children must use the correct drop off and pick up points and follow the directions of the staff when entering the school site.

The details are as follows:

Nythbran

For Nythbran pupils must only enter the school through the Chip Shop Hill or Park Street Entrance, unless arriving on Local Authority Transport. Pupils being dropped by cars must use the Chip Shop Hill entrance following direction from staff.

Year Group	Date	Start Time (am)	End Time (pm)
Year 7	Thursday 3 rd September 2020	8.50	2.50
Local Authority Learning Support Classes	Thursday 3 rd September 2020	8.40	2.50

Nythbran

All pupil groups are fixed and pupils will not be able to move between groups for health and safety reasons. Groups have been carefully constructed to take account of pupils needs.

Additional Information

Can I remind you that no child should be sent to school if they are displaying symptoms of coronavirus.

Parent Visits to the school

In line with the guidelines we have received, parents may not visit the school/meet with staff unless they have a pre-booked appointment. Parents may only come onto the school site to drop off or pick children up. To arrange a visit to the school please contact Reception on 01443 682137.

Headteacher – Yvonne Jones

Porth Community School
Cemetery Road
Porth
Rhondda Cynon Taff
CF39 0BS
Tel: 01443 682137



Advance Notice

The school will be closed for planning and preparation on the 1st and 2nd of September 2020.

The INSET days for the coming year have been confirmed as:

Friday the 25th of September 2020

Monday the 19th of July 2021

Tuesday the 20th of July 2021

Please note that these dates may be subject to change and further INSET days have yet to be allocated.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I realise that there is a lot of information here, however, I feel it is important that this is shared with you.

I wish you all a relaxing and safe summer and I am looking forward to seeing your children in September.

Yvonne Jones
Headteacher

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