



St. Helen's Primary School & Cygnets Flying Start
Vincent Street, Sandfields.
Swansea SA1 3TY

Headteacher: Mr. M.S. Thompson, B.A. Ed.(Hons), NPQH
Acting Deputy Headteacher : Mrs. J. Lowe B.A.(Hons), PGCE
Flying Start Childcare Manager: Mrs.A.Cable
☎: (01792) 655763
✉: (01792) 470019

e-✉ : St.Helens.Primary@swansea-edunet.gov.uk

www.sthelensprimary.uk.org

follow us on twitter: @sthelensp



Professional Teaching Awards Cymru Winner 2017

12th February 2021

Dear parent/carer,

This letter can be viewed and subtitled on our You Tube channel <https://youtu.be/A-gHrPH2V7Q>

Welcome back for Infant and Flying Start pupils

It will be fantastic to see some of you back on Wednesday 24th February –we have missed you. We currently do not have a return date for Junior pupils, as soon as I have more information, I will write to you. Home learning arrangements will continue for Junior pupils and you will be contacted fortnightly via phone to check how you all are.

It is important to remember that although all some pupils are returning to school, this is not a return to normality. The children will continue to remain in class bubbles, and they must not associate outside of school. It is up to us as adults to keep transmission in the community low and stick to all of the rules. This means not meeting in each other's houses, having play dates, sleep overs or playing in the park together etc.

Please work with us to keep everyone safe, it would be a real shame and ultimately very dangerous if people breaking the rules led to positive cases and groups of pupils/staff having to self- isolate. It's up to all of us to keep the school open for the benefit of the children.

School reopening arrangements

Every effort has been made to mitigate the risk to staff, pupils and public, however, it must be noted that total mitigation of the risk of contamination/infection with COVID-19 is not possible. It is compulsory for children to attend school unless there are medical reasons not to (Doctor's letter



needed). There are staggered start and finish times for classes to ensure social distancing is maintained at the busiest points of the day. Junior pupils attending emergency education will enter through the Junior yard after half term.

The times of the sessions for classes are as follows:

Class	Drop off time	Pick up time
Flying Start morning session	9.00 am	11:30am
Flying Start afternoon session	1.00 pm	3:30 pm
Nursery morning session	9:00 am	11:30am
Nursery afternoon session	1.00 pm	3:00 pm
Reception	8:45 am	3:15 pm
Year 1	8:45 am	3:15 pm
Year 2	8:55am	3:25 pm
Junior emergency education	8:50am	3:20 pm

Arrangements for pupils

- The children will be organised in class groups and will not mix with any other children outside of this group. Each group will have a dedicated toilet which will be cleaned regularly. There will be a rigorous and enhanced cleaning routine in place throughout the school
- The children will wash their hands on entering and leaving the school and at different points during the day.
- They will maintain a 2m distance from adults whilst in school. Breaktimes will be staggered so that there is a maximum of 30 pupils on the yard at any given time. No contact games will be allowed at playtime.
- They will initially undertake class activities around helping them settle back into school and also receive a broad curriculum.
- There will be no snack on sale, snack needs to be brought in by the child (fruit and not crisps, chocolates etc.). They can bring in their own water bottle with their name on it, but this must be taken home at the end of every session in school.
- The children will be washing their hands regularly throughout their session in school.
- Face coverings and other forms of PPE for pupils are not required.
- Each child will have their own pen, pencil, ruler, book etc. to ensure they only touch things that are used by them.

School lunches

School cooked lunches will not start until the 1st March and will be available for Infant pupils only. All pupils will need to bring a packed lunch on 24th, 25th and 26th February. Junior pupils attending emergency education will need to bring a packed lunch every day.

For those Infant pupils in receipt of free school meals, your BACS payments will continue until the 26th February and for Junior pupils you will receive the payment until your child returns to school. This money should be used to provide a packed lunch for your child.



Arrangements for parents

- **No child must attend school and will not be admitted if they or anyone in their household has symptoms of Covid19. This is essential to keep everyone safe and you will be expected to confirm this with us when you drop off your child.** The main symptoms are: a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature). Please do not give your child Calpol to mask any 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 or anyone in your house develops symptoms of Covid19 you must organise a test immediately and self-isolate
- If your child develops symptoms whilst in school, they will be isolated and you will be contacted to pick them up immediately. It is essential that we have up to date contact numbers for you and that you leave your phone on when your children are in school. **Any child with symptoms who is not picked up immediately puts everyone at risk.**
- You will be given drop off and pick up times for your child. It is essential that you stick to these to help with social distancing around the school and ensure everyone is kept safe. **All children must be brought to school and picked up by an adult over 18. You must maintain a 2m social distance from other children and parents at all times whilst on school premises.**
- When dropping your children off, the children will line up on the yard, there will be teachers on the yard to help you with this. There is a maximum of 1 parent per child for dropping off and all parents must wear a face covering unless medically exempt. For Infant pupils, please stay with your child until they have been taken in by their class teacher. **Once the children are in school, please leave the school premises immediately and do not hang around outside the school gates to speak to others. This is essential to help stop community transmission.**
- Please take this opportunity to walk, cycle or scooter your children to school, please do not come in your car unless absolutely necessary. This will ensure an orderly environment around the school and ensure you don't have to spend time trying to find parking and then missing your very important dropping off/picking up time.
- When picking your children up, please stand on the 2m markers for your child's class. You will then be called forward to collect your child. Please do not approach the exits until you have been asked by your child's teacher. **Once you have picked up your child, please leave the school premises immediately and do not hang around outside the school gates to speak to others.**
- **Parents are not allowed in the school building unless they have an arranged appointment.** If you wish to speak to Mrs. Davey in the Office, a class teacher or the Headteacher, you must do this initially by phone.

Critical Workers

The school is not closed to all Junior pupils as we are still open during this period for education for the children of critical workers. This operates between 8:50am and 3:20 pm Monday to Friday. The definition of a critical worker can be found at: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-critical-key-workers-test>



[eligibility](#)

The children undertake lessons in school and are supported with any tasks set by their teachers. School meals are not provided, and any child using this facility will need to bring their own healthy packed lunch.

If you require your child to attend school so that you can undertake your critical work, please email me on ThompsonM28@Hwbcymru.net

Electronic devices

As pupils work from home, we know that much of the work relies on the use of suitable electronic devices such as a laptop, Ipad or Chromebook. In order to support this, if you do not have a suitable device, you can loan one from the school. I have previously contacted you about this and many of you have taken us up on the offer. If you require a device during this period, please complete the form which can be found at:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ug4_TzS3ZEGUCRtgHRR5ky_wis5ixMmhguxC0hs2hUMFdITVJYT0xYME02MVfZk5UQzNVNUg5Ry4u

Could all Infant pupils who have loaned a device during the closure please return it to school when the children come back.

St. David's Day

On March 1st, all pupils can wear red/national costume to school. The children will be undertaking lots of activities in relation to and learning about our national patron saint.

Finally

We know this is an extremely difficult time for everyone in the community. We are all worried about keeping safe and the effect the school closure is having on our children. By supporting one another, we can get through this and hopefully better times are ahead. If you require any support from us, please always remember we are to help and not judge. Every family circumstance is different and we appreciate that. Please take advantage of everything we have to offer. We know this can never replace the school operating as we normally do, but together we can work together to minimise the harm being closed is doing to our children.

As I started with, this is not a return to normal and we must all stick to the rules to keep the school open. The return to school may cause many anxieties for both pupils and parents. We will work hard to ensure the children are settled, safe and enjoy coming to school. **Our ways of working may change but our values of ensuring every child is safe, well cared for and gets the best education possible won't.**

If you have any questions about our return to school and want to discuss any anxieties, please contact me via email on ThompsonM28@hwbmail.net.

Mr. M.S. Thompson
Headteacher

