



St. Helen's Primary School & Cygnets Flying Start

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29th September 2020

Dear parent/carer,

Thank you

A massive thank you for all parents who have been supporting the safe return to school. Your commitment to the staggered drop off/pick up times, social distancing and keeping cars away from the school has been greatly appreciated. Every little thing we can all do, helps keep the children safe. It is essential that anyone with symptoms of Covid19 or if there is anyone with symptoms in the household stays away from the school and arranges a test. I know getting the tests has been difficult for some families but hopefully this will improve over the coming weeks. Together, we can ensure we keep everyone safe to the best of our abilities. I am also thankful to those parents who leave the area around the school immediately after picking up their children. This again, keeps everyone safe which is our main goal.

Letter sent out this week

You should have received another letter earlier this week giving you information on how your children will learn at home if we have to close a year group due to a positive case in the school. This, unfortunately has happened in a number of other Swansea schools already and we have to be prepared. Our new YouTube channel which can be found at the address below:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtnwz5FTWB7s-egp9C3aKA?view_as=subscriber



contains lots of videos on how to access the online materials which will be set by your child's teacher. It is essential that you prepare yourself ready to support your child if we have to close a class due to a positive test. An excellent feature available on YouTube is the opportunity to turn on the subtitle function in a number of languages. This means you can translate the videos into the language of your choice. I have put together a short video on how to use this function. This is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnF5xCq3mA4>

Updates on Breakfast Club

This is currently running very well and safely. If you need to use this facility e.g. for work purposes, booking forms are available from the school. All places have to be pre-booked.

Updates on School lunches

These are also running very well and are being enjoyed by an increasing number of children. There is a different hot and cold option daily which is eaten in the classrooms except for Reception and Y1 who eat in socially distanced class groups in the dining hall. Dinner money is paid through your Squid account as we still cannot accept cash in the school office. A reminder that if you want to speak to someone in the school you should ring first and make an appointment. This is to keep everyone safe.

After school clubs

We have decided not to restart the clubs at present, due to safety of the children, families and staff being paramount. We shall revisit this decision after half term. We cannot currently mix class groups and therefore clubs would only be available to one year group anyway. I know this is frustrating for you and the children. This is frustrating for us too, but necessary in the current climate.

School photographs

The children will have their photograph taken on Thursday October 1st. Unfortunately these will be individual photos due to the current restrictions. Pupils will not be able to have their photograph taken with their siblings and there will also not be any family photographs allowed this year. As always, the children need to wear school uniform on this day.

Important dates

Friday 23rd October – School closes for the one week half term holiday

Monday 2nd November – INSET Day (School closed for pupils)

Tuesday 3rd November - School starts back for pupils after the holidays

Yours sincerely,
Mr. M. S. Thompson
Headteacher

