



Happy, Together, Learning and Caring.

Website: www.cwmffrwdoerprimary.co.uk

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Arrangements regarding school reopening for pupils on 7th January 2022

Dear parents/carers

On behalf of all at Cwmffrwdoer, we wish you a Happy New Year and I hope that you all enjoyed your Christmas break and that you managed to spend time with families and loved ones in the current circumstances. For many of us, plans were disrupted and this is something we have had to get used to, however frustrating and difficult.

School will reopen for pupils on Friday 7th January. We look forward to welcoming our children back and we aim to keep school as normal as possible. There will be no change to our start and finish times.

To reduce congestion at the school gates, Foundation Phase pupils can arrive at school at 8:50am and Key Stage 2 pupils can arrive at 8:55am. All children can go straight to their usual points on the yards.

We ask all parents/carers to follow safe practices of social distancing and mask wearing at the gates and to not hang around when children are coming into school. We must continue to keep each other and ourselves safe in the months ahead.

Due to the potential impact of the Covid-19 Omicron variant over the next few weeks, all schools in Wales have had extra days this week to prepare for potential disruption to learning and teaching. These days have given us time to assess staffing capacity, reconsider our risk assessment and mitigations and put any necessary measures in place to support the return of pupils.

This is a very fast-moving situation and things in school can change quickly.

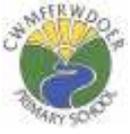
We will continue to run as normal (including breakfast club) unless a shortage of staff means we cannot do so.

We are returning to school at a 'very high' risk level. Managing this risk effectively requires support from our whole school community.

Key measures include:

- staff test three times weekly using Lateral Flow Tests
- all staff and visitors to school (unless exempt), are to wear face coverings in all areas in school where distancing cannot take place
- parents/carers wearing masks when dropping off and collecting children
- minimal mixing of pupils in different classes where possible
- pupils will sit at class tables in breakfast club and at lunchtimes





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- staggered break times for different classes/phases
- regular handwashing and hygiene procedures
- adequate ventilation (as well as use of CO2 monitors)
- maintain current levels of cleaning

Our main priority is to maintain face-to-face teaching. However we may not always have enough staff to do this. In such an instance, we would have to make the difficult decision to move affected classes to remote learning for short periods. This would be a last resort in the event of a lack of staff capacity.

Please ensure we have the most up-to-date contact numbers so you can be contacted as early as possible in the event of your child's class having to close at very short notice.

Changes to self-isolation arrangements

All adults who are fully vaccinated and children (5 - 17 years) are now asked to take LFT tests every day for 7 days if they are identified as a close contact of a positive Covid-19 case. This is known as 'Daily Contact Testing'. These tests need to be done before coming into school. Individuals only need to isolate if the test is positive or if symptoms develop in which a PCR test should be booked as soon as possible.

Children under 5 do not need to test or self-isolate but they should not attend school if they show any symptoms of Covid.

We have greatly appreciated your support since the start of the pandemic. These are anxious and uncertain times for us all and we must continue to work together to keep our children safe and learning. I will continue to keep you updated in line with our risk assessment.

Kind regards

Sarah Truelove
Headteacher

