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Ysgol Uwchradd Llanwern High School

Pennaeth Mrs T Jarvis Headteacher

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2nd September 2020

Dear parent / carer

Hope all is well with you and your families and that your children are looking forward to returning to school. We are certainly looking forward to seeing them and returning to some sort of normality!

As keen as, I don't doubt, we all are to return to normal, it goes without saying that whilst we continue to live with Covid-19, we need to continue to take measures to mitigate the risk of transmission in our community.

You will already have received communication from me twice over the summer outlining some of the measures taken to adjust and prepare to welcome the children back, whilst also mitigating (as far as possible) the risk of transmission in the school.

To further support the mitigation of risk, from Monday 7th September, when all children return to school and are back on site, I am asking for your support in ensuring that your child attends school with a face mask.

This face mask will need to be worn when your child is travelling from one lesson to another or when your child is indoors in a communal area, such as the atrium, whilst they collect their food at break and lunch.

Everything we have done in terms of preparing for the children to return to school has been about introducing measures that aim to keep children safe and distinct as a year group contact group, whilst also looking to ensure they have access to a broad and balanced curriculum.

I cannot guarantee that whilst your child is moving from one lesson to another that they won't come into contact with children from other year group contact groups. This is also the case when your child is in the atrium collecting food at break and lunch. So, as a precaution and as an added safety measure, for now, they will be required to wear face masks whilst in these areas.

As the children are taught within their year group contact group, it will not be necessary to wear face masks during lesson time and as we all adjust to this 'new normal', disposable masks will be available if the children forget to bring in their face mask next week.

However, these will be limited and in order to adhere to the school's risk assessment and the health and safety measures introduced, **it will be mandatory for all children to have their own face masks from Monday 14th September.**

We will continue to monitor the situation and be informed by guidance from the Local Authority and Welsh Government.

In addition to the introduction of face masks, the school will also start the term without the use of school changing rooms for Games and PE lessons. Again, this is a precautionary measure at this stage and is subject to review, but when your child has Games or PE on a particular day, I am asking that they attend school in their full Games/PE kit (after consideration, blazers will not be required on these days).

It is also important to ensure that as parents/carers you are aware that we will not be able to accept any unplanned visits to the school. The main school reception will be closed until further notice and if there is a requirement for a meeting with a member of staff I ask that this is diarised and scheduled in advance. However, if there is an emergency, as far as possible, please telephone the school, so that we can respond and support you accordingly.

Finally, please be aware that if during the school day a child displays covid-19 symptoms or indicates that they are experiencing symptoms, then that child will need to either be collected from school or given permission to go home.

As you can appreciate, we are not equipped to make medical assessments, so we have to respond in good faith and trust that your child would only indicate they were experiencing symptoms if this was the case. As such, symptomatic children will have to be removed from class, isolated and then sent home to either be tested or self-isolate. Siblings would also need to be collected and any children awaiting testing cannot return until they have received confirmation of a negative test result or following the completion of the period of self-isolation.

This planned response will be taken in order to try to keep the whole community safe, but clearly this position is open to some potentially taking advantage of the situation by claiming (falsely) that they are experiencing symptoms. Therefore, I ask that you make your child fully aware of the serious implications of falsely claiming they are experiencing covid-19 symptoms.

If you have any queries or questions regarding the details in this letter, or any other issues, then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

I look forward to receiving all of the children back to school next week.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mrs Jarvis', written in black ink.

Mrs Jarvis
Headteacher