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Dear parents and carers

I hope that everyone is keeping well and has had a chance to relax and enjoy over the summer holiday. We are looking forward to seeing the pupils returning to school for the new educational year. Below is some relevant information regarding the new school year, mostly to do with Covid-19, following the publishing of the Welsh Government's Guidelines for schools. Please take your time to read the information:

Starting and finishing times: The time the day starts in the morning will stay the same, 9:00am with the gates opening at 8:45am. **Finishing time at the end of the day will revert back to what it was pre Covid, 3:15pm, therefore the collection window of 3:00pm – 3:15pm will come to an end.** This is due to the guidance noting that all schools are to revert back to pre Covid dedicated teaching hours. The gates will be opened in the afternoons at 3:05pm; please don't arrive much earlier than this when collecting.

Bubbles / Contact Groups – The requirement to keep pupils in different contact groups (bubbles) are coming to an end. However, if there was a big rise in Covid cases, this measure could be reintroduced. We will be adjusting the breakfast club, playtimes, lunchtime and after school club arrangements in a gradual and proportionate way over the next fortnight to meet this change.

Positive Covid cases – if a pupil or staff member tests positive for Covid, they will have to isolate for 10 days as per the national guidance. **Please inform the school if your child tests positive for Covid.** In line with current Wales guidelines, close contacts of a positive will not need to isolate if they have been fully vaccinated (double jabbed) or are under 18. However, in all cases, identified contacts must follow whatever instruction and advice they are given by Track and Trace. It won't be the school's responsibility to make a decision on who has to self-isolate.

Pupils and staff displaying Covid symptoms

If anyone displays any Covid symptoms, they should arrange a PCR (full test) and isolate until the result comes back. Please note that a PCR test must be taken if there are any symptoms; taking a LFT (Lateral Flow Test) only is not enough as this is designed as an asymptomatic Covid test. **Please don't send your child to school if he / she is displaying Covid symptoms in case the virus is spread.**

Face coverings

Pupils and staff aren't required to wear face coverings in classes anymore. However, if anyone wishes to do so, they are welcome to wear one. Staff will be encouraged to wear face coverings in busier areas of the school.

Again, following the Welsh Government's Guidelines to schools, **all visitors to the school should wear a face covering, including parents and carers when they bring their children to school and collect them at the end of the day (unless you are exempt from wearing a face covering).**

One way system

The one way system for parents and carers around the school will continue to be used for now.

Handwashing

We will continue to ensure that pupils and staff wash / cleanse their hand regularly during the day.

Other staff visiting the school

Other staff such as supply teachers and Teaching Assistants, peripatetic teachers (instrumental lessons), specialist teachers and visitors (i.e social workers, speech and language therapists) will be allowed to visit the school in line with our risk assessment.

Cleaning

Frequently touched surfaces and resources will continue to be cleaned regularly during the day and the whole school will be cleaned as usual at the end of every day.

Toilets

Pupils and staff will continue to use designated their toilets for the time being.

LFT tests

All staff will be asked to take a LFT test twice weekly. Primary aged pupils aren't required to take LFT tests.

Ventilation

We will be keeping windows and outer doors open as much as possible to ensure a flow of fresh air into the classrooms while at the same time making sure that the temperature is comfortable in the classrooms. We will also be making as much use as possible of the outside for teaching and learning.

Breakfast Club and After School Club

The clubs will continue as usual, commencing from Thursday, September 2nd. ParentPay is still not allowing parents to book a place in the Breakfast Club, so the system of turning up on the day will continue the same as before summer.

ParentPay should be used to book and pay beforehand for the After School Club. We are aware that possibly ParentPay has not yet been 'moved forward' to the new educational year to enable parents to book and pay for places; until this has been done, pupils can attend the After School Club without using ParentPay to book a place.

School meals

Please remember that ParentPay must be used to order (including pupils on Free School Meals) and pay for school meals by 8:00am every morning. It's possible to book and pay for meals up to a fortnight beforehand.

Attendance

It's expected that all pupils will attend school as usual, arriving promptly by 9:00am. Please let the school know, ideally by a phone message before 9:30am, if your child is going to be absent for any reason.

If you intend to take your child for a holiday during term time, a holiday form, available on the school's website or from the school office, must be completed beforehand. The LEA is currently reviewing the attendance policy for Wrexham schools and is considering changes to the authorisation of holidays during term time. We will communicate any changes made with you in due course.

On a different note, over the summer, Gwersyllt Community Council have agreed to finance a crossing patrol and twin flashing lights to be situated on Delamere Avenue. WCBC is now working to put these in place as soon as possible. We are very grateful to the Community Council for agreeing to this.

I hope that the information above is of use as the pupils return for a new educational year. We are determined to do everything possible to make sure that this year is as 'normal' as possible for everyone while also ensuring everybody's health and wellbeing. If there are any changes to the above, we will communicate these with you through the usual channels.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again soon,

Osian Jones