



PONTARDDULAIS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
YSGOL GYFUN PONTARDDULAIS



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24th June 2020

School re-opening arrangements - update

Dear Parent/Carer,

This letter is split into two sections for your convenience; the first section is additional information to last week's re-opening letter whilst the second section is information sent to you last week. This means there is no need to cross-reference two separate letters, as I appreciate there is a lot of information relating to the school's re-opening. For further information, please go to our website page that contains a welcome back induction video and other supporting resources:

<https://pontcomp.co.uk/2020/06/23/welcoming-pupils-back-to-school/>

Additional information to the letter sent out on 17th June:

On Monday 22nd June you would have received a letter from Swansea's Director of Education explaining that all Swansea schools will close to pupils from Friday 17th July 2020. Previous to this announcement we had planned for a four-week opening but have now changed our arrangements to accommodate a three-week opening. The timetable for all three weeks is below:

Week 1	9.00 am – 2.00 pm	9.30 am – 2.30 pm	10.00 am – 3.00 pm
Entrance pupils use:	Main Underpass	Leisure Centre	Humanities Block
Monday 29 th June	9P	10P	10O
Tuesday 30 th June	9O	10N	10T
Wednesday 1 st July	9N	10I	10S
Thursday 2 nd July	9T	7T	8T
Friday 3 rd July	9I	7I	8I



Week 2	9.00 am – 2.00 pm	9.30 am – 2.30 pm	10.00 am – 3.00 pm
Entrance pupils use:	Main Underpass	Leisure Centre	Humanities Block
Monday 6 th July	7P	10P	10O
Tuesday 7 th July	7O	10N	10T
Wednesday 8 th July	7N	10I	10S
Thursday 9 th July	7A	8P	8O
Friday 10 th July	7S	8N	8S

Week 3	9.00 am – 2.00 pm	9.30 am – 2.30 pm	10.00 am – 3.00 pm	10.00 am – 3.00 pm
Entrance pupils use:	Main Underpass	Leisure Centre	Main Underpass	Humanities Block
Monday 13 th July	7P	8P	9P	7A
Tuesday 14 th July	7O	8O	9O	7S
Wed. 15 th July	7N	8N	9N	8S
Thursday 16 th July	7T	8T	9T	
Friday 17 th July	7I	8I	9I	

We are pleased to confirm that the Swansea Council Transport Team have been able to accommodate all pupils who are eligible for home-school transport. As explained last week we have planned for staggered starts to the day, break times and the end of each day. We were hoping that Swansea Council Transport Team would be able to facilitate the transport for the different start and end times; unfortunately, they have not been able to do so. For those pupils who will now be arriving earlier, and departing later, than initially anticipated we have arranged a socially distanced and supervised waiting area in the main hall. Please encourage your child to bring a book to read or some independent work to make the most of this time. **Please note pupils will need to be waiting at their usual bus stop 30 minutes later than their usual pick-up time.**

All pupils identified as being at high risk of severe illness from coronavirus (due to a serious underlying health issue) will have received a letter from the Chief Medical Officer for Wales (shielding letter). Therefore, pupils who have a shielding letter must not attend school until further notice is given from Welsh Government guidance.

Information in the letter sent out on 17th June:

When pupils return they shall be in small groups in order to achieve 2 metre social distancing. A day will consist of four one-hour lessons with a 30 minute break



between the second and third lesson. Separate form groups will attend on different days. To minimise movement around the school pupils will usually be based in one room for each day, this is not always the case for pupils in Year 9 and 10 who will need to change rooms due to a range of option subjects. When in classrooms pupils will follow the 'check in, catch up and prepare' Welsh Government principle. Following a brief wellbeing session teachers will check what work pupils have completed in line with set work since school closure. Teachers will support pupils prepare for the next phase of their learning.

This 'face-to face' time is an important part of the 'blended learning' approach. It complements the learning pupils have been completing from home. Pupils may also be provided with physical learning resources (exercise books, booklets etc.) to support their learning. Where pupils do not attend, we shall endeavour to deliver 'learning packs' to pupils' homes. If parents/carers choose not to send their children to school the pupil will be expected to continue learning from home.

We shall use a number of entrances to the school to support social distancing, staff shall be welcoming pupils on arrival to help them navigate around the school and to reinforce safeguarding control measures. Different pupils shall be learning different subjects each day. We have previously shared this detail for each day to parents/carers separately, for week 1 and 2, so pupils can bring the correct resources for each day. When finalised, a separate timetable shall be distributed for week 3.

The school will be adhering to the Swansea Council risk assessment policy, in conjunction with Welsh Government guidance. The school retains the right to review its provision in line with guidance and make amendments to its risk assessment policy when and where necessary.

You must not send in your child if they are exhibiting any Covid-19 related symptoms (flu like symptoms, a continuous cough, high temperature, loss of taste and/ or smell). If any pupils develop symptoms during the day, parents/carers will be contacted and expected to pick up their child immediately. Everyone must be aware that the risk of spreading Covid-19 cannot be totally mitigated.

Currently, Welsh Government guidance nor the Swansea Council risk assessment policy does not require the wearing of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as face masks. However, we would respect the right for any member of staff or pupil to wear PPE.

Pupils shall be informed of social distancing requirements on arrival and within the school. Multiple hand sanitiser stations will be in place around the school. However,

soap and water remains the best way to wash our hands and this will be available for all pupils. Pupils must wash/sanitise their hands on entry into the building. Pupils will receive support in using a new one-way system that will be in operation from June 29th.

Since school closure (20th March) we acknowledge that your child may have outgrown their uniform. Pupils will not be expected to wear school uniform. Guidance suggests clothing that is suitable for the school environment should be comfortable and easily washable. Ideally, clothing worn to school should be washed on returning home.

Please support our safeguarding and hygiene measures by ensuring your child does not bring chewing gum to school. Chewing gum is banned for hygiene reasons, I am sure you will appreciate the importance of this rule, now more than ever.

All pupils will need to bring in their own packed lunch with enough to drink to last for the day. There will not be any food or drink available to purchase at school. Pupils eligible for free school meals must also bring in their own food and drink. Unfortunately, we have been advised to disable all our water fountains to mitigate against the risk of spreading Covid-19.

Pupils will be required to bring in their own equipment and should not share stationery equipment. Work booklets and exercise books should be brought in only for the lessons they have that day.

Each form group will have a staggered start to the day, break and end to each day, the same applies for staff. This is in place to support social distancing. Therefore, we politely request that the drop off and pick up times are adhered to. Please see the three week timetable for when your child's first lesson starts.

As you are probably aware, the school has been operating as an Emergency Childcare Setting since 23rd March. This will continue to operate until the end of term. Our partner primary children and staff have now moved back to their individual schools in preparation for their own re-opening.

Swansea Council have provided additional information and services:

Coronavirus – return to school frequently asked questions:

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/returntoschoolFAQs#return%20to%20school>

Parents/carers can also contact Swansea Council through a telephone enquiry line on 01792 636033 or 01792 636034 or by email:

coronavirusenquiries@swansea.gov.uk .



This link is back to school guidance for parents:
<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/transitionguideparents>

This link is back to school guidance for pupils:
<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/transitionguidepupils>

The patience and understanding of parents/carers and pupils is greatly appreciated. We acknowledge that for many pupils and parents/carers the coronavirus pandemic has been a difficult time to navigate, and will continue to pose many challenges. We are committed to continuing to support you, and your child, therefore please remember you can still contact the school via email (info@pontcomp.co.uk) or phone the school on 01792 884556. Your ongoing support is valued more than ever, and we look forward to the day where life and school can return to normal, in the meantime please keep safe and well.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. G. Rees
Headteacher