



**Saundersfoot Community Primary School**

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**Headteacher: Mr N. Allen**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

We hope this newsletter finds you and your families well. The current situation we face is challenging for everyone, we continued to face difficult situations without knowing a final end point for all pupils. The Welsh Government's announcement last Friday outlined a return to face to face teaching for Foundation Phase pupils. We wish to reassure all pupils, parents and carers that the school will look to use some of the proven systems and methods we have previously utilised, whether this was in the Summer Term or the Autumn Term

I have attended numerous meeting this week and can now inform you that Pembrokeshire Primary schools will invite Foundation Phase children back to school from TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> February. **Each year group will only be attending school for ONE DAY during this week, supporting Pembrokeshire County Council cautious and safe approach to the pupils return.** This return to schools will be phased so that each group of learners entering school settings is familiarised with the range of measures to keep them safe. In the first week of the return to school numbers on school sites will be lower.

Saundersfoot CP School will be inviting:

Nursery pupils back to school on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 8:30am-11:45am

Reception pupils back to school on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 8:30am-3:00pm

Year 1 pupils back to school on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 8:30am-3:05pm

Year 2 pupils back to school on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 8:30am-3:10pm

All Foundation Phase pupils to return on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March – we would love to welcome all Foundation Phase pupils back in their Welsh costume.

**Let's really go for it this year and really celebrate our return to school and St David's Day!**

All schools in the Tenby Cluster will be using the first day back Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to organise the clinical mask for staff and the lateral flow testing kits that are to be delivered in half term. As a result of this there will be no live lessons or work provided on this day, staff will be required to plan, deliver and familiarise themselves with new procedures. Key stage 2 remote/live lessons will begin again on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February. Foundation phase teachers will share a reduced timetable of work during this week due to the phased return. Teachers will be preparing classrooms for pupils, welcoming pupils back for a day and sharing some work via Class Dojo.

We wish to ensure the pupils, staff and school community remain safe during this most challenging of times. As we have said the systems we created last term proved successful and there will be NO change to the morning/afternoon routines or times. Siblings will be dismissed together as before the Christmas holiday. Maintaining our awareness to you as families, Key Stage 2 lessons will not begin until 9:20am, we

do this as some families will still be transporting their children around this time. For all those children who are able to begin from 9:00am, there will be a registration and warm up activities to complete.

As we begin to prepare for a return to face to face teaching we feel this would be a good opportunity to ensure every learner is as fully prepared and therefore able to maximise upon returning to the classroom. Especially as some families are facing the possibility of one child attending school and others being taught remote learning from home. To this end we feel this would be a good opportunity for **Key stage 2 pupils** to revisit the school expectations as we feel this provides families with a clear structure and routine to the school week. Every Key Stage 2 teacher is sharing 'live' lesson twice daily, with an additional afternoon session. This is something we are very proud of as a school, especially as we have been carrying this out from the final week in December. As the teachers are live, they are unable to repeat instructions for pupils joining the session late. In the best interesting of remote learning, if your child is more than twenty minutes late, please join the next lesson.

Remote learning is a 'new' system for all, however, as educationalists we know the benefits of mindset and routines. Attending the 'live' session dressed and where possible at a table or desk is ideal. We strongly feel that children's beds and pyjamas are something that should not be associated with schools, both of these should provide comfort and feelings of relaxation, not school work. Please do all that you can to help your child with this.

The video content of live session is a challenging topic to get right, as Headteacher I have attended numerous 'live' session and small support groups. In reviewing our new ways of teaching and learning, in the very best lessons all pupils keep their cameras on during whole class teaching, (when the teachers is talking to all pupils), switching them off when working and back on when in conversation with their teacher, but always on line helping the teacher to address whole class teaching points, if needed.

Hosting 'live' lessons has given many parents a view into the classroom and judging by the comments I have received, an appreciate of the patience needed by teachers. Conversely, the school has a window into family homes, when the children leave the device it is best for them to turn the camera and microphone off, these devices are quite sensitive and background scenes and conversations can often be picked up. It is a difficult situation we know and we do this to protect you as parents as well as the school. Thank you for understanding.

We were fortunate on previous returns to school that we had no COVID cases at the school. This was a result of the tight procedures we had at school and the cooperation of you as parents. We want to keep it that way, can we all commit to keeping this COVID wolf from our door.

In light of this can you:-

- ☘ Check in on you and your child/children's health every morning. If you recognise any of the following signs do not send your child to school:-
  - ☘ New Continuous Cough
  - ☘ Temperature
  - ☘ Loss of Taste/Smell
- ☘ If you do identify the above symptoms call 119 to organise for a COVID Test. We kindly ask you to provide evidence of the test outcome (negative or positive) – sight of a screenshot notification will suffice. Your child will not be allowed back in school until we receive this.
- ☘ From the first day of symptoms, you should self-isolate for 10 days.
- ☘ The message has been very clear that although schools are re-opening, it does not mean that the children are free to mix outside of school. Parent/carers should not therefore be organising for children to come back and play, look after other people's children or organising sleepovers/parties.

This will put the whole school in jeopardy. We kindly ask you to remember this, we do get told a lot of information from pupils so please follow the rules.

**WE NEED YOU**



**PLEASE NOTE THAT ONE OF THE GREATEST CONCERNS WITH THE CHILDREN RETURNING TO SCHOOL IS THE COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION OF THIS VIRUS. THIS IS WHERE YOU COME IN PARENTS/CARERS!**

- Parents/Carers must wear a face covering when entering the school site to drop off or collect their child/children.
- Please minimise drop off/collection of children to 1 parent/carer per family.
- Parents/Carers must practice the utmost social distancing when dropping off or collecting their child.
- Prompt entry to the school in the morning is key. We wish to avoid taking children through Reception if they are late for school as this will mean crossing communities.
- Parents/Carers need to be prompt for pick up please. The school staff have been informed that the children need to be out on time, Mr Allen will co-ordinate this as per Autumn term. If there are any difficulties with this, please let us know.
- We ask that children are in school uniform and similar to before should minimise bringing belongings from home.

Thank you for all that you have done during this first half term, the next half is also set to bring us a number of challenges but together we CAN and WILL keep everybody safe and well.

On behalf of the whole school community please stay safe this half term holiday and enjoy spending time with your family.

Mr. Nick Allen and staff.

*N Allen*

Headteacher

Saundersfoot CP School

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