



Saundersfoot Community Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr N. Allen

Dear Parents and Carers,

Blwyddyn Newydd dda! Happy New Year!

I hope you have all enjoyed the festive period and are fully recharged! It would appear that we all needed that full charge, as we face an uncertain January and Spring 2022.

The school has been busy preparing the site, classrooms and online resources for whatever return we face. As I write this letter we will have 95% staff capacity so at this stage we anticipate very little disruption to school operational services. We are fortunate here in Saundersfoot that the Governors support the staffing structure enabling the school to have two staff member per class. This arrangement allows the school to have a ready made contingency plan in place.

Spring term 2022.

Over the holiday period the First minister asked for schools to seek permission of their Director of Education before introducing staggered starts or end of the day. Saundersfoot has been given this permission, so collection arrangement will remain as reported in the last newsletter.

Under the Coronavirus Act 2020 Notice, schools are permitted to operate staggered starts and finish times to reduce gatherings on the school site. We feel the start times from 8:40am to 9:00am provides enough of a staggered time to avoid such a gathering. However, we will need to adjust the school ending times slightly. We will begin dismissing our classes with our youngest pupils, Reception at 3pm, a rolling program at 5min intervals will then follow. We will continue with our dismissal of all siblings with the youngest child.

Time	Foundation Phase Gate	KS2 Gate
3:00 pm	EYs	
3:05pm	Y1	Y3
3:10 pm	Y2	Y4
3:15pm		Y5/6

We wish to remind parents and carers that on pick up this should generally be only one parent/carers, helping to reduce the number of adults gathering. All adults collecting their children need to wear a facemask and maintain social distance from one another, avoiding gathering around the school gates. The school's staggered dismissal system helped significantly in reducing numbers gathering so we will continue to dismiss our pupils in the same way.

Contingency Planning.

The school is preparing for a very uncertain Spring term, school leaders and staff have discussed various scenarios and situations: our ultimate aim is to maintain face to face teaching for as long as possible.

Our first response to a staff absence will be for the year group to remain open with the other staff member supervising/teaching. Should the second member of staff become absent the school will look to provide alternative supervision through supply staff and after this, recalculation of pupil staffing ratios and the reallocation of existing staff members. Only if none of the above are appropriate will we close the year group and move to remote learning.

The recent changes stating a PCR test is no longer required means we are all going to face a very fluid situation. All staff will complete LFT three times weekly before coming to work. Should any of these be positive, this COULD mean some classes moving to remote learning on that day. We obviously wish to avoid this, however, it is a very real possibility and something I feel we must prepare for.

We all appreciate the benefits that schools offer in terms of the social and academic development of children. Please be assured that the school will do all that it can for the operational services to remain as normal as possible, however, the health and well being of the staff is our utmost priority, as without the staff we would not have our wonderful school.

We also wish to prepare those parents and carers who are critical workers to the fact that, with all staff allocated to separate classes the school will have no additional staff capacity to staff a hub class. As a school we wish to reassure you that we will put all of our energies into maintaining face to face teaching. The school will exhaust all other avenues, such as staff reallocation, supply agencies, exploring all available contingencies before moving to remote learning. The school will only be able to offer a provision if multiple classes are forced to close. We thank you for understanding and supporting the school as we look to maintain our on site education for as many pupils as possible.

Finally, I wish to highlight to you as parents and carers that our actions here in school have remained accomplished and innovative. As a school we decided to inform parents should there be a positive case within a year group, we were under no obligation but felt it important as we looked to keep the community safe. This has now become nationwide practice and from Spring term schools will be sending out these letters. Throughout the Autumn term the school maintained its approach to many operational systems, these actions largely allowed the school to function without significant disruption and we will look to sustain this approach until February half term, when they will be reviewed.

We are grateful for your support and feedback.

Ongoing Covid-19 Awareness.

We ask that you look out for symptoms of COVID-19 in your child.

The **three key symptoms** of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature: this means that they feel hot to touch on their chest or back
- a new, continuous cough: this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste: this means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child has **any of these three key symptoms**, please do not send your child to school and arrange a PCR test for them immediately. You can book a PCR test online through the

NHS website at [gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or by calling 119. Anyone else in your household with **any of these three key symptoms** should also isolate and take a PCR test.

Mr Allen and Team Saundersfoot.