



12th February 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Thank you so much for your continued patience and support. I would like to have informed you of our plans before now but unfortunately, we have been waiting for the Welsh Government operational guidance, which is available on the following link:

<https://gov.wales/operational-guidance-schools-and-settings-support-limited-attendance-html>

In Summary, this guidance clearly states that after half term, Special schools will provide onsite education provision for:

- learners in the foundation phase (ages 3 – 7)
- vulnerable learners
- critical worker's children – defined as those employed in:
 - Health and social care
 - Public safety and national security
 - Education and childcare
 - Food and other necessary goods workers

However, the document also states that schools should **'proceed cautiously to ensure rates of COVID-19 do not start growing exponentially again, as set out in the TAG briefing note'**. Therefore, we have reviewed our risk assessment with the Governing Body and members of a multi-disciplinary team (Health and Children's Services) to finalise a safe and effective re-opening plan.

Risk Assessment and Capacity

It has always been our intention to increase our capacity at the earliest opportunity, and welcome as many pupils back to school in a safe and timely manner. Fortunately, a number of factors have changed in the past 10 days, which will allow us to increase the number of pupils attending from the 22nd February;

- All staff have been offered a covid-19 vaccination in the past 10 days
- All staff are able to access covid-19 Lateral Flow Testing at school on a weekly basis, which started this week

When these significant developments are added to other well established elements of our risk assessment, we consider it reasonable and proportionate to increase capacity to the following groups of children after half term:



YSGOL HEN FELIN

LEARN LAUGH GROW | DYSGU CHWERTHIN TYFU

GELLIGALED PARK
YSTRAD
RHONDDA
CF41 7SZ
TEL: 01443 431571
EMAIL: admin.ysgolhenfelin@rctcbc.gov.uk

Full Capacity

<u>Class</u>	<u>Arrangements/provision</u>
Nursery	5 days [full time]
Reception	5 days [full time]
Class 1	5 days [full time]
Class 2	5 days [full time]
Class 4	5 days [full time]
Class 9	5 days [full time]
Class 10	5 days [full time]
Dosbarth Enfys	5 days [full time]
Dosbarth Seren	5 days [full time]

50% Capacity

[Group 1: 3 days week 1 / 2 days week 2]

[Group 2: 2 days week 1 / 3 days week 2]

<u>Class</u>	<u>Arrangements/provision</u>
Class 3	3 days / 2 days rota [50%]
Class 5	3 days / 2 days rota [50%]
Class 6	3 days / 2 days rota [50%]
Class 7	3 days / 2 days rota [50%]
Class 8	3 days / 2 days rota [50%]
Class 11	3 days / 2 days rota [50%]
Class 12	3 days / 2 days rota [50%]
College A	3 days / 2 days rota [50%]
College B	3 days / 2 days rota [50%]

* Please note, these arrangements will be reviewed on a weekly basis and may be subject to change.

Children of critical workers in all classes will be provided with provision on the days that their parents/carers are scheduled to work. Those parents/carers will be required to provide rota/shift pattern information on request. Requests for hub provision should be a last resort after all other possible childcare avenues have been exhausted.



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I would be grateful if **all parents/carers** intending to send their child back to school after half term could complete the information on the link below so that we can make the appropriate arrangements:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ug4_TzS3ZEGUCRtgHRR5k1MbqJSadqRAsdNIWN8m8EdUOEozODIzU1dYNUYzV0FBOUc0QzdOSVIFNS4u

You will be informed of your child's allocated days in school ASAP. But, if you change your mind regarding sending your child back to school, please inform the school at the earliest opportunity.

In order for re-opening plans to be finalised, I require all parents/carers to inform me of their final decision by **5pm Monday 15th February**.

We sincerely hope that after Easter, this will increase further and we will be closer to all pupils being in school 5 days per week.

In order to increase the number of pupils attending, and to continue limiting the risk for staff and pupils, the following measures will be in place to keep everyone safe:

- All pupils will have lunch in classes
- All pupils will remain in their class bubble throughout the day
- Breaktimes/lunchtimes will be split to ensure pupils do not mix with children from different classes/bubbles
- All parents/carers are requested to wear face masks whilst dropping off/collecting their child from school

Distance learning

From 22nd February our distance learning offer will end for all classes that are re-opening to all pupils. However, we will continue to provide online learning to those classes that are returning on a 50% rota. This will be through the same methods as we are currently providing; Twitter and see-saw.

*** Please note, there will be no distance learning provided during half term.**

Please note, parents/carers **do not** have to send their children to school for the remaining weeks of the Spring term. Please be reassured that the staff and I will respect whatever decision you choose to make and will not try to influence you in any way. We will keep you informed at the point when Welsh Government announces that school attendance is once again made mandatory.

Thank you for your continued support. Keep Safe!

Aron Bradley
Headteacher