



Crickhowell Community
Primary School

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you are all safe and well. My apologies for the length of this letter but there is a lot to explain regarding our plans for re-opening in September.

Following the Welsh Government's announcement, we are currently preparing for reopening the school on Thursday 3rd September. The expectation from Welsh Government and Powys LA, is that all learners are expected to attend school. Schools have until September 14th, to get all pupils back into school, if they need additional preparation days. In Powys, the 1st and 2nd of September are designated preparation days. On Thursday September 3rd, we will be welcoming **all** our pupils back into school.

Our key priority is ensuring the safety of our children and staff and school community. We will be taking the following steps to ensure all learners and parents are kept as safe as possible:

- Keeping learning groups together and reducing interaction with wider pupil groups. This will mean, no assemblies and staggered breaktimes and lunchtimes to minimise pupil groups on the yard and in the canteen. For the start of term, we have been advised not to run extra-curricular clubs, though due to the way contact groups have been organised, we can change this when advised.
- Avoiding large groups of parents/carers at the start and end of the day. To do this, we will stagger start and finish times, as we have done in the last 4 weeks and ask that only one parent brings their child to school.
- Ensuring ongoing hand hygiene and routine handwashing on the way into school, before and after breaktimes and lunchtimes, before and after visiting the toilet and before handling IT equipment in the classroom.
- Reducing the number of items brought into school. So, it will be essentials only, pencil cases (with essentials for the day), lunch(if pupils are having a packed lunch), drinks/drinks bottles as there will be no water cups used in school, reading books on allocated days and coats. Where possible, pupils will only use their own equipment and avoid sharing where possible. Pupils will be expected to wear school uniform.

Our plan for September is to run three contact groups. Foundation Phase, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6. Where possible, classes will be kept separate. This will mean separate areas of the dining hall and playground during lunch and dinner time. The purpose of having contact groups is to reduce the impact on the school community, if someone were to show symptoms of Covid19. Due to the running of the three contact groups, there will have to be some changes to the school day, which are outlined below. We have tried our best to minimise the impact on parents/carers, as we appreciate many parents need to plan get back to work in September.

Breakfast Club- To keep the contact groups separate breakfast club will run differently. Foundation Phase pupils will go the canteen as normal but Key stage 2 pupils will go the main hall and be split into two contact groups. All pupils will be given something to eat and drink, if needed. Breakfast club will start at the usual time 8am, classes will be dismissed to line up with their class at the set time. To run the different contact groups in two locations, we are temporarily employing additional staff. This means that we will have to raise the cost of breakfast club to cover these

additional staff costs. Breakfast club will cost £2.00 and £1.50 for siblings, until we return to the normal staffing arrangements.

Start and Finish times are outlined below. The three contact groups have different start and finish times. To minimise the number of parents/carers on the yard, could each child be brought into school by one parent/carer, could parents/carers be as punctual as possible and leave the school grounds as soon as they have dropped their children off. Please do not come into the school building unless it is absolutely necessary, or you have a prior appointment.

- **Reception**-8.45am on the yard, to be collected from the yard at 3.05pm.
- **Year 1**-8.45am on the yard, to be collected from the yard at 3.05pm.
- **Year 2**-8.45am on the yard, where Year 4 normally line up, to be collected from the same place at 3.05pm.
- **Year 3**-8.55am on the yard, to be collected at the same place at 3.15pm
- **Year 4**-8.55am on the yard, to be collected from the yard at 3.15pm
- **Year 5**-9.05am outside the Y5 classroom on the corner, to be collected from the same place at 3.25pm
- **Year 6**-9.05am outside Year 6 by the steps to be collected from the same place at 3.25pm.

Lunchtimes/breaktimes-We will run three breaktimes with Foundation phase first, with the classes spread out and then Year 3/4, followed by Year 5/6. Lunchtimes will be similar with a gap to clean the dining hall between contact groups. Different staff from the contact groups will be on duty for the break and lunchtimes. Pupils will have the same allocated time for lunch and break. Powys catering will be providing cooked dinners, please see the attached menu. [School dinner Menu Sept 20](#)

After school club will run as normal in the hall and pupils will be split into contact groups and we will try to make use of the outdoors when possible. There will be a ceiling on the number of pupils we can accommodate, so please try to book a week in advance, so we can allocate places as required. After school club will run from 3.10pm to 5pm.

Life in school will be different as we establish new safe routines. Having had the last 4 weeks to adapt, we are confident we can continue to keep everyone safe in the autumn term. However, as the situation changes weekly, it is very likely we will have to make ongoing changes. We will do our best to keep you informed. Half-term starts on Monday October 19th until Friday 30th October. Class organisation and teaching staff will stay the same as last year.

Lastly, I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff and governors who have worked so hard during what has been an exceedingly difficult year. Thanks to all the parents who have supported us as we have tried to work through this, it has been greatly appreciated.

Finally, a sad goodbye to our Year sixes. Sorry we couldn't give you the send-off you deserve but we wish you the very best of luck wherever you are going and please stay in touch.

Thank you for your continued support and please have a safe and happy summer.

M. Wakeley.