



# Blackwood Comprehensive School

## Ysgol Gyfun y Coed Duon

Headteacher/Pennaeth Mrs J Wilkie

Ty Isha Terrace, Blackwood NP12 1ER

Telephone/Fphone: 01495 225566

Fax/Ffacs: 01495 225625 Email: [blkca@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:blkca@caerphilly.gov.uk)

**Ymdrech I Drechu – Strive To Succeed**

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils

### Return to School: Welcome Back

25<sup>th</sup> June 2020

I hope you and your families are all safe and well.

I wrote to you last week sharing more detailed arrangements for our return on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020. We are really looking forward to welcoming our pupils back to school from Monday. As I am sure you are aware, the Local Authority (LA) announced on Friday that schools in Caerphilly will now close on 17<sup>th</sup> July, which is a change to the original information I shared. CCBC Chief Education Officer Keri Cole has written to parents and carers regarding the decision and we have shared it on our website and social media. We still have no further indication of arrangements for September but we hope to hear something from Welsh Government before the end of term.

It is a parental/carer choice as to whether your child returns to school and we will support your decision should you decide not to. I would like to assure you that no Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) will be served if your child does not attend school. Our main aim is to ensure that we work with you as parents and carers in making the right decision that will support pupils' social, emotional and physical wellbeing. We have shared our pupil return survey and have allocated pupils to their 'bubbles'. To ensure the safety of the school community pupils **cannot be accommodated next week** if you have not already returned the survey to let us know. However, over the next few days, we will start sending out surveys for pupil attendance for the week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> July should you decide you would like them to attend.

Please ensure you complete our home/school agreement prior to your child's return.

### School Transport

The LA provide transport for the school. When we return there will be a limited school bus service as they have stated that it will be difficult to accommodate all pupils due to social distancing requirements. However, I have forwarded the names of those pupils who have indicated that they are returning to us and use buses. I have been informed that taxis will not be readily available to transport pupils to and from school, and that there is an expectation that parents and carers will transport their own children where possible.

### School Model

As I said in my previous letter, we will be following the Public Health Wales (PHW) Guidance for Corona Virus (Covid-19) when we return to school. This includes:

- Strict reinforcement of strict social distancing and rigorous hygiene practices;
- Two metre social distancing, which includes two metre spacings clearly identifying safe social distancing whilst lining up;
- PPE will be worn only when dealing with symptomatic cases or providing close, personal care such as first aid. If a child tests positive for Covid-19 we will contact all parents and carers of children

who were in the same 'bubble' and, in accordance with PHW guidance, they will need to self-isolate for 7 days;

- To ensure the safety of the school community, any pupil not following instructions and PHW guidance will be removed from their 'bubble' and parents/carers will be contacted to pick them up.

Pupils will need to bring a snack and a drink for break as canteen facilities will not be available. Additionally, water dispensers will not be in use.

### Timetable

Pupils will have a staggered start and finish to the day and must arrive at their allocated time, maintaining strict social distancing. Specific information regarding each pupil's 'bubble', classroom and teacher will be emailed to parents and carers by the end of this week, but an overview of arrangements is in the table below. Pupils **must** arrive at their designated start time.

<b>FORM start and finish Time</b>	<b>YEAR 10 Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>YEAR 7 Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>YEAR 8 Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July</b>	<b>YEAR 9 Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July</b>
<b>A 8.30am- 12.30pm</b>	Classrooms A1 and A3	Classrooms C1 and C3	Classrooms L1 and L2	Classrooms A1 and A3
<b>K 8.35am-12.35pm</b>	Classrooms E1 and E2	Classrooms B1 and B3	Classrooms B1 and B3	Classrooms C1 and C3
<b>L 8.40am-12.40pm</b>	Classrooms C1 and C3	Classrooms D2 and D3	Classrooms C1 and C3	Classrooms B1 and B3
<b>C 8.45am-12.45pm</b>	Classrooms D2 and D3	Classrooms A1	Classrooms E1 and E2	Classrooms E1 and E2
<b>W 8.50am-12.50pm</b>	Classrooms B1 and B3	Classrooms E1 and E2	Classrooms D2 and D3	Classrooms D2 and D3
<b>D 8.55am-12.55pm</b>	Classrooms L1 and L2	Classrooms L1 and L2	Classrooms A1 and A3	Classrooms L1 and L2
<b>Markham Bus 8.30am-12.30pm</b>	L3	L3	L3	L3
<b>N 9.00am-1.00pm</b>		Llwyddo ICT room		
<b>Hwb 8.30am-12.30pm</b>	Blackwood Hwb	Blackwood Hwb	Blackwood Hwb	Blackwood Hwb
<b>Childcare hub 8.30am-2.30pm</b>	Llwyddo ICT room	Llwyddo lounge	Llwyddo ICT room	Llwyddo ICT room

Pupils should wear PE kit or sportswear and arrive and leave via the front and back gates as necessary. Pupils who use the Markham bus must arrive and leave via the back gate. Staff will be in attendance to greet pupils and ensure social distancing is maintained.

### **School Site**

To ensure the safety of our school community a detailed Covid-19 site risk assessment has been written with guidance from the LA Health and Safety team. This means that we have had to implement a considerable number of changes to the layout of the school and these are being shared with pupils in our virtual assemblies this week. A further video will be shared on the website and social media tomorrow.

Staff, the Governing Body and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their support and understanding while we have been closed. I know that it cannot have been easy to have been thrust into the role of teacher so suddenly but we appreciate the work that you have done to help your child carry on with their learning throughout this difficult time.

I look forward to seeing some of you next week as you drop off or collect your child but, until then, take care and stay safe.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J Wilkie".

Jane Wilkie

Headteacher/Pennaeth