



*Q. What are the term dates for the autumn half-term?*

A. For all schools in Gwynedd the autumn half-term break will be one week as scheduled, so term dates have not changed

*Q. Do I have to send my child in from the date allocated for his/her year group in September?*

A. Yes. Attendance is compulsory

*Q. Will there be sanctions for non-attendance?*

A. Certainly not for the period up to 14<sup>th</sup> September. The Welsh Government will review the situation and decide by the half term holiday whether to reinstitute fixed penalty notices and prosecution for non-attendance of school. Those parents / carers who choose not to send their children into school without good reason will be contacted by school and in some cases by the Education Welfare Service.

*Q. What provision will school be making for the pupils who come in from the 2nd September onwards?*

A. School will still look and feel very different, but, as the Welsh Government expects, we will still be aiming to provide a full and broad curriculum. We have moved desks and have positioned the chairs 2m from the teacher's desk

The corridors have then been marked to support social distancing. The corridors are 1.8m wide in most areas, so there will be a strict one way system which is clearly marked with signs. The main hall will be set out with exam desks at which the children can eat lunch and can sit when the weather is wet at break, lunchtime and before school.

We are letting Y7 pupils and any pupils having lessons in the art/humanities block out of lessons 2-3 minutes early to reduce congestion.

*Q. What should I do if my child had received a shielding letter?*

A. The child should attend school. Shielding has been suspended.

*Q. What should I do if my child lives with a member of the family who has received a shielding letter?*

A. See above.

*Q. What should I do if my child has a medical condition or lives with someone who has a medical condition which makes them vulnerable?*

A. Your child should attend school.

Q. *How will the learners travel to school when they return?*

A. School transport is being provided as it was before the lockdown. Every year group will receive specific seats on the transport. The parents of children who cannot adhere to the rules will receive a warning letter and if they continue not to comply with instructions, they will face exclusion from the transport. In these circumstances, it will be the responsibility of the parents to arrange how their child gets to school.

Q. *Will it be possible for children to continue to travel to school on a public service bus?*

A. Yes. The local authority (LA) will ask operators to give priority to children at usual school transport times. Passengers on public transport are required to wear face masks. It is recommended that pupils on school transport do so as well. The local authority have commissioned additional buses just for school children on some routes such as the 5A to increase capacity.

Q. *How will the day start?*

A. When pupils arrive they should wash their hands in the outdoor facilities we have installed and we will begin allowing pupils into school, where they will be directed to their registration classes. We ask parents to encourage children to socially distance on the way to school as they are often arriving on site in groups.

Breakfast club is open from 8:30 but food is not being provided while the canteen remains closed, tutors will be in classrooms from 8:45 and school begins at 9:00 – your child should arrive in school at any time within that 30 minute window in order to support a staggering of pupil arrival times.

Q. *What if some pupils do not adhere to social distancing guidelines?*

A. Pupils who repeatedly do not follow instructions on social distancing will be sent to reception and we will expect parents / carers to collect them immediately.

Q. *If my child behaves so poorly as to be excluded will he/she be sent home?*

A. Yes. We may temporarily exercise discretion in allowing shorter exclusions to be served on site depending on the nature of the offence and the numbers in the exclusion room.

Q. *Will you be providing lunch?*

A. Yes but not during the period that the canteen staff are self-isolating. No pupils in Y7-11 will be allowed off-site at lunchtime during the school day. Sixth formers will be able to sign out and leave the site after 12.00 p.m. if they do not have a lesson, but must be back by 1.30. Year 13 students that do not have a lesson first thing in the morning may arrive in time for their lessons; those without lessons in the afternoon may leave at lunchtime. Similar arrangements will be made for year 12 once their timetables have been finalised. Hands must be washed on return to the site.

Q. *Will you provide pens and stationery?*

A. Pupils must make sure they have their own writing equipment (pens, pencils and crayons / felt tips) with them in a pencil case as sharing will not be permitted. Paper and workbooks will

be provided. Work done on paper during the day will not be marked by the teacher for at least 48 hours.

Q. *What about toilets and hygiene?*

A. The children should be washing their hands at key points during the day. We have fitted sinks on the outside wall of the main building. We have ordered enough hand sanitiser to have a bottle on every teacher's desk and stations at key entrances. We have also ordered boxes of wipes so that the children can wipe down their own work areas on the days when classroom movements occur. The guidance is that soap and water works better than the alcohol sanitiser, so we are encouraging children to use the sinks rather than the hand sanitiser. We have enough door wedges to wedge every classroom door open so door handles do not have to be shared. If the fire alarm sounds, the last person out of a classroom (which should be the teacher) kicks the wedge away so the door closes. Member of cleaning staff will be stationed outside toilets to make sure that the children wipe down any surfaces they have touched before they leave the toilet. We have employed additional cleaning staff to continuously circulate around the buildings, cleaning all the high use items such as door handles and replenishing soap and other consumables.

Q. *Should children wear face masks?*

A. Current health advice is that these are inadvisable in class. Teaching is communication based and we don't think face masks help communication. Pupils may wear them in the corridors, in communal areas and outside but will have to take them off in class. However, constantly removing them and putting them back on may constitute more of a risk than not wearing them at all.

Q. *Will they have to wear uniform?*

A. Yes. All normal school rules on uniform apply now. Full PE kit will need to be brought in on the days children do PE.

Q. *What will happen if my child is taken ill during the day?*

A. We will place them in reception where they are visible to office staff and ask you to come and fetch them as soon as possible.

Q. *Will school trips run this year?*

A. Foreign school trips will not be running until further notice. Educational trips locally may run, subject to the latest guidance and a risk assessment.

Q. *Will after school clubs and extra-curricular activities be running?*

A. Clubs etc. will begin running as soon as possible – but this will need to be carefully organised.

Q. *How will you communicate with parents?*

A. We'll continue to use our current platforms to send you messages. While there may be periods where you don't hear anything for a few days, and while we appreciate that you may find this frustrating, we won't write to you unless we have something to say – in other words some new or important information to pass on. We learnt very quickly that writing to parents to anticipate what would happen a few weeks ahead could be confusing and misleading as major

policy decisions affecting schools can change very quickly. We feel it does no good to speculate or tell you about changes ahead unless we are pretty certain they are going to happen as planned.

Q. *What if I need to visit school?*

A. Please telephone or use any of our online platforms to contact school, we are not currently allowing parents / carers or other visitors on site.

**Thanks for all your support and co-operation.**

**Please stay safe!**

From all at Ysgol Friars

