

Dear Parents,

Can I thank you all for your patience as I know lots of you have been very keen to find out more about the arrangements for September. We had a briefing today and I wanted to attend this meeting first so that I could make sure that I was giving you the most up to date information.

You may be aware that the Minister for Education has stated there will be a framework to keep schools safe next term. This framework will be published during the school holidays. We do however know that the school times will return to the times pre pandemic and we will no longer have staggered starts. This means that our children in Foundation Phase are at the following times:

Gelli 9am-3.00

Treorci 9am-3.05

Pontypridd 9am-3.10

Junior children will be in school from 9am -3.20pm. (Years 3-6, Aberhonddu, Caerdydd, DYP and Eryri)

I know that parents may need to change their work times and I would like to thank you for supporting the staggered starts we have had over the last few months.

Some parents may have applied for places in Breakfast club. If you have been successful in securing a place you will be informed via e mail next week. Breakfast club will be open from 8am.

We still need to try to manage the number of people at the gate and I would like to suggest we have a 20 minute window from 8.50-9.10 for arrivals so we don't all arrive at the same time! I know that generally, in Wales the advice is that masks are not mandatory but our schools guidance asks parents to continue wearing masks during arrivals and collections.

As I said, the detail of the day is still to be confirmed but I would like to reassure parents that we will still have Risk Assessments in place and we will follow all guidance as we have throughout and we will ensure that our staff and learners are as safe as possible and that well being will continue to be a priority.

I would also like to inform parents that we have had some further positive cases in school but we have worked with track and trace and no action needs to be taken by ourselves or parents. I am sure that we would all like to send our best wishes to the families affected.

I have sent a text message to inform you that schools are still responsible for the Track and Trace procedures until Monday the 19th of July. Should any of our learners receive a positive Lateral Flow test or PCR test could you please inform us via admin.gelliprimary@rctcbc.gov.uk and we will get straight back to you. From Tues the 20th of July, Track and Trace will deal with any confirmed cases of school aged learners.

After looking forward to September I think it is also very important that we reflect on this year too. I cannot thank our families enough for working with us to keep our staff and learners safe. You have had to make changes and be flexible and work with us in partnership and you have been brilliant.

I hope you can all see from our Social Media feeds that despite the pandemic, we have had a very successful year. We continue to improve the range of opportunities we can offer our children and to offer our learners the very best experiences we can. It has been an absolute delight to have our children back in school and we have loved every minute of spending a full term with them. As a parent said on Facebook our staff and children have been heroes throughout this year.

Finally, I would just like to mention our amazing Year 6 pupils. You may be aware that they have been unable to come into school this week but they have been very busy on Seesaw, staff have been out to visit and we still have more to share with them before the end of term. They have been fantastic ambassadors for our school and we are really going to miss them! I am sure you would all like to join me in wishing them every future success and we can't wait to hear about their achievements in Treorchy. I can honestly say that Treorchy are going to be very lucky to have them. Can I also just say a huge thank you to our parents leaving us this year for the tremendous support they have given us during their child's time at the school.

I wish you a very safe and restful break and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

From Mrs FD and all at Gelli Primary