

Headteacher/Pennaeth  
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January 2022

Arrangements for the start of the Spring Term

Dear Parent/Carer,

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda. I hope you had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break.

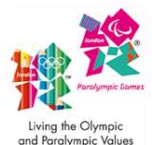
I am writing this email to clarify the arrangements at the start of this term. The context of this is the rising case numbers of the Omicron Covid-19 variant in Swansea.

Pupils are due to return to school from Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January. Looking at our current staffing availability levels and the likely short term projection, we can accommodate four out of five year groups in each day up until Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January. The fifth year group will be home, learning remotely. We believe that there will be enough staffing capacity to accommodate four year groups during these seven days of school. This includes using supply staff that we have pre-booked. The rota for home learning is:

Date	Year Groups in School*					Learning Remotely
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	11	10		8	7	9
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	11	10	9		7	8
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	11	10	9	8		7
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	11		9	8	7	10
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	11	10		8	7	9
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	11	10	9		7	8
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	11	10	9	8		7

\*Pupils that attend the STF can attend all week

Staffing levels will be reviewed during this time period and any further changes will be communicated promptly. Parents/Carers will be given as much notice as possible about what school will look like from the 17<sup>th</sup> January. It is possible that we may have to continue with four year groups in each day but it is also possible that staffing levels may have reduced to the extent that we only have the capacity to have three year groups in school. It is, of course, possible that we may be in a position where we can have all five year groups in. The situation will be fluid and our plans could change at any time during the next few weeks.



### Remote Learning:

For Years 7, 8 and 9, we have decided to have a set timetable of 3 lessons during each day of remote learning. Departments will be setting work for the whole year group. This means that pupils will not miss out if their teacher is absent from school. Year 10 will be following their normal timetable when working at home and the number of lessons available will depend on Year 10 staffing numbers.

The timetable for the next 7 school days is:

Date	Year Group Learning Remotely	Subjects to be studied (via Google Classroom)		
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9	Maths	English	Geography
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	8	English	Science	MFL
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	7	Science	Maths	Welsh
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10	Year 10 follow their normal timetable (Tuesday week 2)		
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9	English	Science	History
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	8	Maths	English	ICT
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	7	English	Science	RE

This means that on Thursday, Year 9 stay home and will need to access Google classroom. They will find lessons in their Maths, English and Geography classes. Pupils can use laptops, PCs and tablets to complete their remote learning. They can also use their phones. If pupils are using their phones, they will need to download the Google Classroom App. Further information and help is available via our school website.

All Swansea Schools have been placed into risk level very high and there are additional mitigations that we are having to (re)introduce. These include:

- The return of contact groups (bubbles);
- Consistent seating plans in key stage 3 classes wherever possible;
- No sporting fixtures until the risk level changes;
- No breakfast club or break service for pupils;
- Split lunch times for year groups. Year groups will have their own queue and their own table. The theatre will be available for pupils eating packed lunches from home;
- Pupils are strongly encouraged to complete Lateral Flow Tests three times a week. They should be done on Monday, Wednesday and Friday before school. LFTs are available from school (as well as Gorseinon Library and all pharmacies). Pupils can pick them up from their year team offices and they are available from reception on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

There have also been changes to the rules regarding being a household contact with someone that has tested positive for Covid-19. If someone tests positive in a household, the other family members no longer need to isolate and book PCR tests. Instead, they undertake a lateral flow test each day for 7 days. If the results continue to be negative, they continue to go about their daily business (including going to school).

The isolation period for someone testing positive for Covid-19 has also been reduced from 10 days to 7 days. However, the person must have a negative lateral flow test on days 6 and 7 to be released early from their isolation. Further details can be found here:

<https://gov.wales/self-isolation>

I have made a video which goes into more detail on all of the above.

<https://www.loom.com/share/c1cbd9aa8f684f8eabeb1dfbdd1d7d48>

The video may answer any questions that you may still have. If you have any further questions, please contact the school. Staff are back from Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

My genuine thanks to all Parents/Carers for their support during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D Benney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'D' at the beginning.

D. Benney

Headteacher/Pennaeth