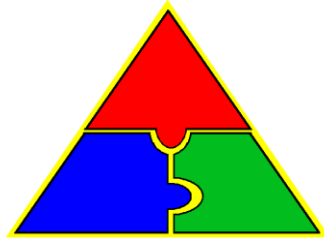


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Challenge, Inspire and Achieve together

<http://www.maesymynydd.cymru>

Pennaeth /Headteacher: Mr D Lloyd

E-mail: mailbox@maesymynydd-pri.wrexham.sch.uk

School Update – 27th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

Can I start by wishing you all a Happy New Year. It has certainly been an eventful start to my role here at Maes Y Mynydd with the snow and ice of last week and the continued prospect of strike action looming. Whilst I am delighted to finally of started I am very conscious of trying to pick up all the school routines as quickly as possible and meet yourselves. As we continue to establish our routines after the festive period, I wish to share with you some important updates on the current situation and moving forwards.

Keeping you and your child(ren) safe.

Following discussions with the local authority and school staff can I please make you all aware of the following changes which will come into effect from **MONDAY 30th JANUARY** regarding our Safeguarding policies.

- All external gates which access the school yard will remain **closed until 08.35am** to ensure the safety of pupils using the breakfast club facilities. **Non breakfast club pupils should not enter the school premises until 08.45am.**
- Once the school bell has rung at 08.50am to start the school day Mr Gibbins (School caretaker) will be locking all external gates at 08.55am. Therefore can I ask that once you have dropped off your child(ren) you leave the premises as soon as possible.
- All pupils who arrive after the bell has rung will be asked to report to reception to ensure your child is safely entered into the schools registration. As is current practice all pupils who are late will be asked to provide a reason via the signing in/out system.
- At the end of the school day the gates **will not be opened until 15.10pm** to allow the pupils to complete any outdoor learning activities such as Physical Education and Forest School safely.
- For those parents/guardians who use the after school facilities we ask from next week that you enter/exit school via the Foundation Phase gate. Mr Gibbins will be locking the other access gates at 15.30pm daily.

Holiday Forms

As the school works hard to maximise pupils learning opportunities through high attendance and punctuality can I please remind all parents/guardians that in line with the schools and local authority attendance policy that **NO** holidays will be granted in term time unless they meet the exceptional criteria list noted within the policy –

As is current practice all requests for holidays must be completed on the schools holiday request form and completed by the parents/carers. School will then make the decision as to whether the request meets the exceptional circumstances list. (listed below)

Criteria for Exceptional Circumstances -

- Where it is company/organisational policy for an employee to take leave at a specified time in the year and there is no opportunity for a family holiday in school holidays. This must be supported by documentation from the organisation.
- Service personnel returning from/scheduled to embark upon a tour of duty abroad.
- To attend religious festivals or services such as the wedding or funeral of an immediate family member. Proof may be requested
- Other compassionate circumstances e.g. family illness or family crisis. Proof may be requested.
- Where a holiday is recommended as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issues. Evidence must be provided from a qualified professional such as a doctor.
- Where there are other factors which the Head teacher may consider exceptional circumstances, this may be referred to the Local Authority for advice.
- It should be noted that financial consideration are not deemed exceptional circumstances.

Any holidays which are taken during term time and do not meet the 'exceptional circumstances' criteria will be coded under the Welsh Government 'G' code which will mark your child(ren)s attendance record with the following –

- 'G' code – School Holidays not authorised.

Prospective Nursery Parents/Guardians – Applying for a Nursery place.

The window for applying for a Nursery school place from September 2023 is open. The window opened on the **4th January 2023, and will remain open until the 17th February 2023**, any forms received after this date are deemed late. Forms should be completed online at www.wrexham.gov.uk. Should you require any help completing the forms or have any queries please contact/ask Mrs Prach in the school office.

Should any parent/guardian be aware of family members and/or friends who are in the process of applying/looking for a Nursery place please tell them about the wonderful setting we have here at school and that we are more than able to provide tours of the school should they wish to visit.

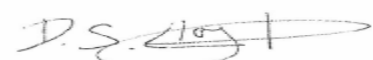
School Uniform reminder

Can we thank all parents/guardians for ensuring that all pupils returned to school looking so smart and responsible. As a school, we are extremely proud of our uniform and the pride pupils take in representing school across the year. Unfortunately, a small number of pupils have returned to school wearing clearly branded and coloured trainers and/or a hooded sports top instead of a school jumper, which do not comply with the school uniform policy.

Can I remind families that our school uniform policy states that all pupils should wear traditional black school shoes or an all black trainer based shoe. We would be grateful for your support in supporting the policy.

Should you have any queries regarding any of the issues raised please speak with your class teacher or contact the school office.

Yours sincerely



Mr D. Lloyd
Headteacher