

Ysgol Maes Owen



Aim to learn, learn to succeed ~ Anelu at ddysgu, dysgu i lwyddo

Monday June 8th, 2020

Re: School Re opening from Monday June 29th, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Firstly, I hope you and your families remain safe and well. Please see an update below. I will update you further once I have seen the Welsh Government Guidance, due for publication later on this week.

'Check in, Catch Up, Prepare for Summer and September'

Last Wednesday afternoon, the Education Minister, Kirsty Williams, published details of the next phase for schools in Wales, providing an opportunity for your child to "Check in, Catch Up, Prepare for Summer and September". As part of this statement, the Minister confirmed the intention that schools will plan to start the next phase on 29 June, with the summer term extended by a week, ending on 27 July. Furthermore, the last weeks of this summer term will be used to make sure pupils, staff and parents are prepared – mentally, emotionally and practically – for the new normal in September. The autumn half-term break will be extended to two weeks. Please read the notes after this letter on the second page.

Your child's safety and wellbeing are our priority and we are waiting for the detailed guidance that will help us to plan and prepare for this next phase. Welsh Government has announced that this further guidance will be published later on this week, including information on managing facilities and logistical arrangements, including buildings, resources, cleaning and transport. However, we have already started our initial planning and considerations, prioritising wellbeing of learners, staff and families. These next few weeks will be very busy as we work to complete our risk assessments and prepare the school site.

As soon as I have read and digested the Welsh Government Guidance due for publication later on this week, I can then plan in more detail. Once I have a plan that the Governing Body are happy with I will then make you aware of this plan. As the Education Minister has already stated, if you decide not to send your child to school during these four week and prefer to continue with home-learning, that is absolutely your choice as a family and one that I will respect and you will not be penalised. **To reassure you further at this point, I'm mindful that children have carried on growing during these difficult times and that some are unlikely to fit in their uniform! Uniform will be optional when schools reopen for the four weeks this term. Some children prefer to wear uniform as they like this part of the school routine. However, own-clothes is absolutely fine too.**

I would like to thank you for your continuous support at this difficult time.

Kind regards,

Mrs C Foulkes

Headteacher

If you have additional needs relating to disability, language or cultural issues with which you require assistance at a particular school event, please contact us to arrange the assistance required.



Ysgol Maes Owen, Morfa Avenue, Kinmel Bay, CONWY. LL18 5LE

Tel: (01745) 353721

swyddfa@maesowen.conwy.sch.uk

pennaeth@maesowen.conwy.sch.uk

@MaesOwen

www.maesowen.co.uk

Summary of and link to The Education Minister's announcement 03/06/20

Check in, Catch Up, Prepare for Summer and September".

<https://gov.wales/check-catch-prepare-summer-and-september-all-schools-wales-enter-next-phase>

Main Points:

- Schools will start the next phase on 29 June, with the term extended by a week, therefore ending on Friday 24th July.
- Autumn half-term break will be expanded to two weeks.
- In each school there will be a phased approach.
- Year groups will be split into cohorts with staggered starts, lessons and breaks.
- It is expected that this will mean, at most, a third of pupils present at any one time, though schools may need time to reach this level of operation.
- Due to this, each child will be invited to spend some time in school during the four week period. When not in school, home-learning will continue, supported by the class teacher.
- Much smaller classes will provide secure dedicated time with teachers and classmates.
- This time will include online and personalised classroom experience, getting children and teachers ready for a similar experience in September.