

Birchgrove Primary School,  
Heol Nant Bran,  
Birchgrove,  
SWANSEA SA7 9LS



Ysgol Gynradd Gellifedw,  
Heol Nant Bran,  
Gellifedw,  
ABERTAWE SA7 9LS

Headteacher: Mr. M. O'Brien  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs M Hockin

Telephone: 01792 814814  
Email: Birchgrove.Primary@  
swansea-edunet.gov.uk

10<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I'm writing to you to provide some clarity, as far as I'm able, about the return to school for children in Foundation Phase, (all children in nursery to year 2). I hope you are all as well as can be expected under the current circumstances.

Please accept my apologies for not providing information prior to media releases, but unfortunately I have been hearing about Welsh Government's plans via the media also and then waiting for clarity following these releases. There are some organisational aspects that remain unclear currently which are preventing me from providing you with all necessary information. Please be assured I will notify you of final details as soon as I am able.

However, I want to provide some clarity where I can. There will be no school for any children on Monday February 22nd, as the local authority has designated this as a planning day. The school will be open on Tuesday February 23rd. I will provide you with detailed information relevant to you when it has been developed. All children in school from Tuesday February 23rd, whether in Foundation Phase or the emergency provision in Key Stage 2, will need a packed lunch. From Monday March 1st onwards, school meals can be ordered, as usual, through your sQuid account.

I urge all of you to continue to follow the recent Welsh Government instructions to strictly adhere to all regulations. We know the majority of you are doing this already, but as Welsh Government ministers have stated, it is crucial that children who are in the same contact groups in school do not mix outside of school. The latest TAG report states: 'Out of school restrictions must continue to be applied rigorously, with clear understanding that "school bubbles" only apply within the school setting not outside.' Behaviours outside of school are very different to those in the classroom and the environments are extremely unlike. This means that children must not go to each other's houses for play dates, sleep overs and the like. No one should be having gatherings in their houses, or attending gatherings in someone else's house. To participate in any of these activities not only puts you and your loved ones at risk, but also risks the health of other children in their class, their families, staff and their families also.

I must also stress that it is vital for you to ensure you maintain your distance from others you do not live with during admission and dismissal times. The Local Authority has told all schools to be vigilant and to report anyone who breaks the rules to the relevant authorities who will follow up the reports. As head teacher I greatly value my partnership with you and do not relish the idea of reporting anyone for breaches. Therefore, I ask you to please continue following the current regulations fully and ask that you do not place us in the position of having to take any form of action such as this.

With kindest regards,

Mr. M. O'Brien

Headteacher



**Always be the best that you can be**



**Always be the best that you can be**