



Dear families,

Return to school letter - September 2021

I hope you have all had a lovely summer and that this communication finds you well.

As we return to the new school year please feel assured that we will approach the next year with the rigour, transparency and care that we have 'navigated the water' with since the start of the pandemic to ensure the very best provision and support for all of our children.

As you will be aware the situation remains changeable and we will continue to keep you up to date as we receive information. As a country we are currently under 'Alert Level Zero', from an educational perspective our local area has been determined as a **moderate risk rating** and, as a consequence, we will have to operate in a slightly more controlled way on our return than we would have hoped, which includes limiting contacts and physical distancing where possible and face coverings in communal areas for older pupils and staff. Our children are incredibly resilient and many of the ways of working on their return on Monday will be familiar to them, with some of our restrictions being lowered or removed, which is positive.

There is an updated section on our website for information for return Monday 6th September and the weeks ahead which outlines FAQs:

[YN: return to school September 2021](#) .

[RCT FAQs September 2021](#)

Our arrangements are in accordance with RCT and Welsh Government guidance for schools: [Local Covid 19 Infection Control Decision Framework Autumn 2021](#). On the website and in our frequently asked questions section at the end of this letter, you will find further information.

It may be necessary to amend this guidance should the alert level change and/or additional guidance becomes available. Additional measures may be introduced if the level of risk increases locally or nationally. Welsh Government and Local Authority advice on levels of risk will be followed.

We will inform parents and families of any immediate changes via ParentMail and Facebook and recommend that you follow us via our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/nantgwyn/>. If you are not signed up to Parentmail please email the school directly on help@nantgwyn.co.uk and this can be organised for you.

The wellbeing of our pupils and staff is our main priority. We are incredibly proud of what we have achieved so far, ensuring good provision and support. We have learned a lot since March 2020, and I hope that your experience has been a positive one to date and we will once again go forward. As a parent, teacher and headteacher I want the very best for each and every pupil in my care and

together we will approach this positively and with passion to ensure that we do the very best in partnership for all of our children.

Following the rules will be essential to the health and wellbeing of everyone in our community. Our older pupils, especially those in Nant, will be expected to have a high level of personal responsibility and to be good role models for our younger pupils.

There will be a high level of supervision, but there will also be an expectation that pupils can be trusted if and when they are out of the direct sight of an adult in school. The attitude and behaviour of learners was generally very good in the summer term and we expect the same adherence to school rules when we return to school from the 6th September onwards without exception.

We all look forward very much to seeing all children on their return to school on **Monday 6th September** at what will be their usual start time (08:35 for an 08:40 start for all pupils in year 4 to 11 and 08:50 for a 08:55 start for all pupils in nursery through to year 3). More detailed information about accessing and navigating the site is available in the frequently asked questions and on the website and plenty of staff will be on hand to assist with the revised arrangements. There is also a helpful video link featuring Mr Evans (and I) outlining the new procedures for dropping off and picking up and I would urge you to spend time watching this please before you arrive on Monday so we can have a positive start to our new 'no stagger' proceedings.

Reverting to the formal school times, the movement of traffic on site will be far greater at the end of the day than has been the case since the start of the pandemic. **We will need everyone's cooperation and positivity to ensure that we support each other and keep everyone safe on and off site.**

We have produced a detailed plan, which without exception everyone must follow please if you bring your children to site on foot or by car. A one way system must be followed at all times. The video link can be [found here](#). Information can also be found here <https://www.ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk/news-and-events/september-2021-information>.

We all need to work together to get this right please .

Wherever possible we encourage everyone to walk to and from school please. New year, new resolution, new challenges. Your pupils' access grant (if relevant) can be used to purchase 'all weather items' too!

A decision has been made to resume the breakfast club as normal from September. Please let Mr John Davies know if you require a place john.davies@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk so we have an indication of numbers for Monday. Children will have to follow a number of more rigid rules while at breakfast club in line with the operations we are working within, limiting contacts, good hygiene, facing forward etc.

Non-school uniform will not be accepted under any circumstances and where pupils who arrive at school without the correct uniform parents will be contacted and be expected to bring the correct items to school before 10am. A polite reminder that hair colour and facial piercings also fall under the uniform policy. Hair should be of a natural colour. No facial piercings are allowed and if pupils return to school with these, they will be asked to remove them immediately. Only one pair of stud earrings is acceptable. A helpful reminder can be found here: [Uniform - Ysgol Nantgwyn](#)

Please could pupils bring basic stationery equipment to school with them each day to support their learning and to reduce the amount of sharing in line with COVID guidelines.

Face coverings will need to be worn by all Nant pupils in communal areas and staff will guide them on this throughout the day. It is not necessary at this point for pupils to wear masks in the classroom however they may do so if they wish. Face coverings will be a requirement for any school transport.

Pupils will continue to be encouraged to wash their hands as much as possible and to avoid touching their face. Hand sanitiser will be available at key points around the school and in every classroom. Good hand hygiene is an important factor in preventing the spread of infection. Pupils in Nant will also clear away and wipe down their desk area.

Good behaviour will be essential for all pupils and our expectations in relation to this remain high. Pupils need to demonstrate that they are **ready, responsible and respectful** (our school rules) at all times. Where this is not the case, the school behaviour policy will be implemented. Our pupils have adapted and responded incredibly well over the past two years and we would expect this to continue to be the case. We are so proud of how they have worked so positively and productively with us over this time and look forward to working in partnership with them and you over the next year to guide them to the successes that await them.

Yours, as always,

Kirsty Retallick

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