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YSGOL I.D. HOOSON

09.06.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

Wednesday afternoon, 03/06/2020, 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 24th 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. We will be offering each child a total of three days in school between the above dates. Following last week's letter, you will have already informed your child's classteacher through e.mail of your decision to send your child to school for these three days. If you do not wish to send your child to school for this period, it will not affect your child's attendance rates and will not count as unauthorised absences. Once you have made your decision, you will be unable to change this decision as the school will have planned for the specific number of pupils for each session. If you have not replied, your child/ren will not be considered for a place and will not be allowed to enter the school at a later date. Different classes and groups will attend on different days, whole classes will also not be attending on the same day, as the children will be grouped for the specific days and session. The autumn half-term break will be extended to two weeks.

A link to the statement can be found overleaf and we've also attached a summary of the statement on page two as a help.

Your child's safety and wellbeing are our priority and we are waiting for further guidance that will help us to plan and prepare for this next phase including information on managing facilities and logistical arrangements. However, we have already started our initial planning and considerations, prioritising wellbeing of learners, staff and families and support school to plan a phased approach that is right for their community.

We understand that you will have many questions and we are working closely with the Local Authority, the regional consortium and governors so that we can provide you with the information you need to prepare for this next phase. These next few weeks will be very busy as we work to complete our risk assessments and prepare the school site.

We will write to you again as soon as more detailed information is available. In the meantime Ysgol I D Hooson remains open for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers, and this provision will continue until the end of the term.

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

Summary of and link to The Edcuation 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

What

- Schools will start the next phase on 29 June, with the term extended by a week, therefore ending on 24th July.
- Autumn half-term break will be expanded to two weeks.
- Childcare providers will also increase the numbers of children in attendance from 9 June.

How

- In each school there will be a phased approach.
- Year groups will be split into cohorts with possible 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.
- 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.

Why

- We are creating the opportunity for children to Check in, Catch Up and Prepare before the start of September.
- Since the decision to close schools for statutory provision, our understanding of the virus and its longer-term impacts has continued to develop.
- We know that we are going to have to live with it for some time.
- We know that it will remain our biggest challenge for the foreseeable future.
- We know that the classroom experience will be different for a long time to come.

What next

- Next week, the Welsh Government will publish guidance to support childcare, schools, as well as further and higher education institutions.
- This will include information on managing their facilities and logistical arrangements, including buildings, resources, cleaning and transport.

Once again, I would like to remind you to please contact you your child's classteacher through their direct e.mail address if have any questions about the activities and your child's work, or contact the office at mailbox@hooson-pri.wrexham.sch.uk for general enquiries.
Thank you, look after yourself and keep safe.

Rhodri Jones
Pennaeth/Headteacher

Ysgol I D Hooson