



ST CYRES SCHOOL

Mr P Lewis
Acting Headteacher/Prifathro

Strive Together Challenge Yourself Realise Everyone can Succeed

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have had a pleasant and relaxing summer break. It is almost the start of the new term and we at St Cyres are very much looking forward to welcoming you and Year 7 to our school. I am now able to confirm the finer details for the start of the academic year 2020-21 for Year 7.

I would like to say that we will be 'back to normal' from September, but that is not exactly the case. Certainly, all pupils in all year groups will be returning in the new term and we will be running a full curriculum provision from Year 7 through to Year 13. However, there will inevitably be some operational changes as we adapt to the challenges of Covid-19 and these are outlined in this letter. As a school, we are going to have to learn to coexist with the virus and some activities that were normal for St Cyres will have to be suspended in this interim period.

Week 1

The new term starts on Tuesday 1st September 2020. As with most schools in the Vale of Glamorgan and across Wales, we will be taking the first 2 days as preparation days to ensure that we are fully ready for the pupils to arrive.

We will then be welcoming Year 7 pupils back on **Thursday 3rd September**. Year 7 should arrive at the slightly earlier time of **8:20am** and should enter the building via the Catering Room entrance by the main Pupil entrance either via Redlands Road or Sully Road pathway. As pupils walk towards the Pupil entrance, they will be greeted by the Year 7 team; Mr Morris and the Learning Coaches. Staff will line pupils up in their Learning Coach groups and then will be escorted to their base room via the Catering Room entrance. All lessons and Learning Coach sessions will take place in the allocated base room, to reduce movement around the school.

Year 7 and Year 12 will be the only year groups in school on Thursday and Friday of this week. During these 2 days, we will be focussing on transition activities that we were unable to complete last term. These will include familiarisation with the school, meeting their Learning Coaches and Head of Year, and undertaking some transition activities to ensure that they are ready to start more formal lessons in the coming weeks. The outline programme for Year 7 pupils for these days is shown at the bottom of this letter.

Year 7 pupils will need to bring a packed lunch for the first 2 days of school. This will give us an opportunity to organise pupil fobs and ParentPay registration. Pupils will receive their ParentPay registration letters and a key fob on Thursday 3rd September, which can then be 'topped up' with money in readiness for the following weeks. Please note that no cash can be accepted in the Canteen at any time. We will have a record of those pupils eligible for free school meals and they will be provided with lunch from Thursday 3rd September. Year 7 will be escorted by their Learning Coaches to the Canteen for their lunch.

Please be advised the vehicular access to the site is restricted with the barrier operation. Parents are not allowed on site in cars and children who arrive by car should be dropped at the St Cyres Road entrance and should walk along the pedestrian routes into school. Staff will be available at the gates and along the path to ensure that pupils know where to go.

Week 2

Year 7 will continue to attend this week at the set times and in the base rooms. We intend to introduce another year group back each day during this week, until the school is fully occupied on Friday.

In other words, once Year 7 have started, according to the information above, they continue to attend the rest of the week as further year groups are introduced.

Week 3 Onwards

From **Monday 14th September**, all pupils will attend full-time and as normal, as outlined in the reopening operational guidance published by Welsh Government. All children are expected to attend school unless there is a genuine medical reason not to do so. If there is such a reason, please contact the school when we return in September. **Please remember to report all absences to your child's Year Office:** Year 7 Tel: 029 20 352484.

School Uniform

As outlined in my letter last term, the school is returning to normal in as many ways as possible. Welsh Government advice is that all pupils should return to school in full school uniform and that will be our expectation. There is no need for pupils to bring their PE kit on the first two days. However, once lessons commence from Week 2, pupils will be asked to wear their PE kit all day instead of their uniform only on the days that they have PE. This is due to balancing the need for pupils to access their full PE curriculum against the constraints of managing appropriate supervision and social distancing for PE staff in changing rooms. I would stress, however, that full and correct PE kit must be worn. If jumpers are needed, these must be school jumpers and not hoodies. We will, however, permit the wearing of plain black jogging bottoms or tracksuit bottoms in addition to the published PE kit.

Mobile Phones should not be brought to school.

Times of School Day and Entrances to School

To help ensure that there is minimum mixing between pupils, we will be using different entrances for different year groups. There will also be a staggered start to the day. The times and entrances used on the first day that Year 7 attend, and every day after until further notice are as follows:

Year 7: Catering Rooms Entrance (8:20am start and 2:30pm finish)

Please ensure that your child arrives on time, but not too early as the building will not be open for pupils until the designated start time for each year group.

Staff will be on hand to assist pupils to find the correct entrance.

Equipment

As I am sure you are aware, sharing pupil equipment will be discouraged due to possible cross-contamination of the virus. I would therefore ask for your support in ensuring that your child has all of the equipment necessary for their lessons. This includes the usual things like pens, pencils, ruler, etc. All pupils should have a suitable, waterproof bag which is large enough to hold school books, equipment and an A4 folder. It should be packed with the next day's equipment in the evening. Information regarding iPads will be sent out to parents in due course.

Calendar of Events

The school would normally have a full calendar of clubs and after school activities for pupils and a programme of events for parents. Until advised differently, there will be no after school clubs or sporting fixtures for pupils. This is to ensure that there is no mixing between contact groups.

Similarly, events for parents such as Parents' Evenings will be suspended for the time being. When we are in a position to reinstate these, I will advise you in a further letter. If it looks unlikely that we can hold Parents' Evenings for some time, we will look at alternative ways of giving you feedback on pupil progress.

Snacks and drinks

Due to restrictions on mixing year groups, it will not be possible to serve breakfast before school, and there will be no food or drinks available at breaktime. All Year 7 pupils should bring a snack and a drink with them if they need it.

Learning Coach information

As I have mentioned earlier, the Learning Coaches will greet pupils outside the Main Pupil Entrance and will have visible signs indicating their Learning Coach group and their name. Information regarding the Learning Coach allocation can be found in the body of the email sent to you with this letter.

Transport

Many of you will be aware that St Cyres does not have any school buses as such, apart from a small number of taxis which transport children with mobility issues. We are aware, however, that a substantial number of our pupils use public transport to get to and from school from places such as Grangetown and Barry.

All pupils who use public transport are expected to follow Welsh Government guidelines. This currently includes wearing face masks on trains and buses. Please note, however, that Welsh Government guidelines state that face masks are not required in school.

Finally, after many months of disruption, we are now in a position to welcome Year 7, and the rest of our school, back to St Cyres. My staff and I are looking forward to September and we will do everything possible to ensure that your child settles into school quickly and seamlessly, and we look forward to seeing their potential.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P. Lewis
Acting Headteacher

Year 7 Programme - Thursday 3rd September & Friday 4th September 2020

Thursday 3rd September 2020

8:20 Learning coaches to greet pupils at the Catering room entrance and escort group to base room.

8:20 – 9:50 Session 1 - Time with Learning Coach and Assembly

9:50 – 10:00 BREAK

10:00 – 11:00 Session 2 - Getting to know your peers (Tour of school for 7LH & 7SH)

11:00 – 12:00 Session 3 - Team Building activities (Tour of school for 7MEV & 7BPA)

12:00 – 12:30 Session 4 **Part 1** – Planning: A helping hand (Tour of school for 7CT)

12:30 – 1:10 LUNCH

1:10 – 1:40 Session 4 **Part 2** – Developing: A helping hand (Tour of school for 7KLD)

1:40 – 2:30 Session 5 - Getting to grips with your timetable (Tour of school for 7NHO & 7RT)

Friday 4th September 2020

8:20 – 9:50 Session 1 - Time with Learning Coach (One Page profiles) and Assembly

9:50 – 10:00 BREAK

10:00 – 11:00 Session 2 – Planning: A letter to your future self (Tour of outdoor areas and fire assembly 7LH & 7SH)

11:00 – 12:00 Session 3 - Planning: A letter to your future self (Tour of outdoor areas and fire assembly 7MEV & 7BPA)

12:00 – 12:30 Session 4 **Part 1** – Wellbeing & Happiness challenge (Tour of outdoor areas and fire assembly 7CT)

12:30 – 1:10 LUNCH

1:10 – 1:40 Session 4 **Part 2** - Wellbeing & Happiness challenge (Tour of outdoor areas and fire assembly 7KLD)

1:40 – 2:30 Session 5 – Transition task (Tour of outdoor areas and fire assembly 7NHO & 7RT)