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YSGOL GYMUNEDOL  
**CWMTAWE**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER / PRIFATHRO Mr. C. L. HITCHINGS B.A. (Hons), P.G.C.E., N.P.Q.H.

26<sup>th</sup> August 2019

## GODRE'RGRAIG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is likely that you will already be aware from reports in the media that Godre'rgraig Primary School was closed to pupils and staff during the last few weeks of the summer term. This followed an adverse geological report which identified a risk of land-slip on the land immediately surrounding the school. Further details are available on Neath Port Talbot Council's website.

The council took swift action to safeguard pupils and staff by immediately closing the school, pending further investigations. Inevitably, this has created a great deal of anxiety and uncertainty for parents, staff and pupils, particularly in relation to where pupils would be educated in September.

Over the summer break, we have worked with the council and Godre'rgraig staff to identify alternative arrangements for September. As a result of these discussions, we have agreed to host temporary accommodation on the Cwmtawe site until issues with the current Godre'rgraig site are resolved. This new site will be based in a small section of our largest school yard and will not impact adversely on our pupils. Godre'rgraig Primary School will remain as a separate entity, just utilising some of our resources in the interim.

As I am sure you will understand, such a significant change has required us to re-evaluate all our procedures to ensure that our pupils are not disadvantaged in any way, not just educationally but also in terms of Health and Safety and Safeguarding. This has involved creating a safe and secure environment for both primary and secondary pupils, including scheduling lessons and activities in Godre'rgraig at different times when specific resources are not being utilised in Cwmtawe (e.g. hall spaces and school yards).

### Traffic Management

The volume of traffic at Parc Ynysderw has caused us concern for a considerable time. Whilst we have tried to encourage more sustainable journeys to school, such as cycling, walking, using school transport or lift sharing, the traffic continues to increase. Naturally, introducing an additional primary school onto the site is likely to increase traffic. As a result, we have reviewed timings at the start and end of the school day to try to mitigate this and improve traffic flow. We propose to trial these from 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SWANSEA CITY AFC



### Start of the school day

The start of the school day for Cwmtawe pupils remains unchanged. Bus timetables have been issued and pupils must attend registration at 8.45am. Godre'r Graig pupils will start school slightly later than Cwmtawe pupils, and also take their morning break and lunch break at different times.

### End of the school day

Cwmtawe currently has four local authority contracted buses which serve pupils within the local catchment area who live over three miles away. In addition, there are four service buses provided by South Wales Transport (Neath) Ltd which serve pupils from the Neath and Swansea areas.

In order to alleviate traffic congestion at the end of the school day, we will trial an earlier finish in Cwmtawe from 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Currently, the last lesson of the afternoon session finishes at 3.20pm and we propose to bring this forward to 3.05pm. Pupils walking home from school or receiving lifts from parents/carers may leave at this time. Local authority contract buses will leave the bus bays at 3.10pm.

Service buses run by South Wales Transport (Neath) Ltd will be available from 3.20pm, as their times are governed by a timetable. Provision will be made in school between 3.05pm and 3.20pm for any pupils waiting for lifts or service buses.

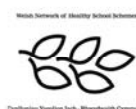
Whilst I would have preferred to consult and involve parents/carers in any decisions around altering the school day, I hope you can appreciate that the tight timescales under these exceptional circumstances have prevented me from doing so. However, we will keep this trial under review and amend if necessary during the year. If you would like to provide comments at any time, you can do so at <http://bit.ly/ccs-godre>

I will endeavour to keep you informed as work progresses and look forward to welcoming your children back to school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. C. L. Hitchings

HEADTEACHER





## SCHOOL DAY – TRIAL FROM SEPTEMBER 2019

8.20	Pupil entrance doors open
8.45 – 8.50	Morning Registration in form room
8.50 – 9.05	Form Period – Assembly or Collective Worship
9.05 – 10.05	Lesson 1
10.05 – 11.05	Lesson 2
11.05 – 11.20	Break
11.20 – 12.20	Lesson 3
12.20 – 1.20	Lesson 4
1.20 – 2.05	Lunch
2.05 – 3.05	Lesson 5 (Afternoon registration takes place in lesson 5)
3.05	End of the school day for pupils
3.10	School contract buses leave
3.20	Service buses leave
3.30	Godre'rgraig buses leave



## Q&A

### ***Why does Cwmtawe have to host Godre'rgraig Primary School?***

Godre'rgraig Primary School's current building was closed at short notice due to safety concerns. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council investigated several alternative options in the local community. All Godre'rgraig pupils transfer to Cwmtawe in Year 7, so naturally we have well-established links and felt a strong obligation to support the school in any way we could. The Cwmtawe site was identified as the most appropriate due to the facilities on site, including catering.

### ***Some year groups in Cwmtawe are already oversubscribed. How is there room?***

The Godre'rgraig site will be hosted on a small section of our largest yard (taking up around a quarter of the yard). It is true that Cwmtawe is over-subscribed in some year groups. However, this mainly affects internal classroom space. As a relatively new build, the school is fortunate to have large outdoor spaces.

### ***How will this affect my child's education?***

We have been very careful to impact assess all aspects of provision at Cwmtawe. This has included our Fire Evacuation procedures and all risk assessments. Our priority has been to maintain current standards and provision for pupils and parents/carers and to minimise any disruption.

### ***Why has the school day been shortened?***

Traffic management outside the school site is generally beyond our direct control and we regularly work closely with local Police to look at solutions to reduce traffic. However, we also look at anything we can do internally to reduce risk to our pupils. It is natural to assume that an additional primary school will incur additional traffic. Therefore, phasing the times that pupils leave the site at the end of the day reduces overall traffic and thereby reduces risk to pupils.

### ***Does this mean my child will have less time spent in lessons?***

No. All pupils will still receive five lessons which are one-hour duration.

### ***Will this affect school sport?***

The area used by the primary school cuts across the tip of our 400m running track, which is not frequently used. We have the alternative option of using our playing fields at the rear of the school for long distance running. Other sports should be unaffected.

### ***Where has the fifteen minutes saved come from?***

Since the introduction of cashless catering, our catering staff are able to serve pupils quicker. Nearly all pupils have been served within the first 30 minutes of the lunch break. Our current lunch break is longer than most other local schools, so we have been able to reduce it from 55 minutes to 45 minutes. In addition, pupils will register during their last lesson rather than a dedicated registration period, saving 5 minutes.

### ***Does this mean my child may go without lunch?***

No. The data provided by the cashless catering system shows that there is enough time for all pupils to get lunch.

