

Dear Parent / Guardian,

18th December 2020

I am writing to you in relation to the re-opening arrangements for schools in January 2021. Unfortunately, the current situation with the increasing transmission of Covid-19 across Wales makes it very difficult for us to predict the impact it will have on staffing levels in our schools following the Christmas break.

Our priority is to minimise disruption to our children and young people's education as much as possible. However, we recognise that schools will need to assess their staffing levels at the beginning of the new term and as a result some flexibility will be required depending on local circumstances.

As a result, the arrangements for January are as follows:

- **Monday, January 4th- Designated Training day** (school closed so there will be no childcare provision or remote learning).
- **January 5th and 6th- Preparation days-** these will be required to assess levels of staff availability, provide additional training, to review all risk assessments and to consider any further requirements in relation to Test Trace and Protect. Your school will contact you about this. (*school will be closed, so there will be no childcare provision or remote learning*).
- **January 7th and 8th-** your school will inform you if pupils are able to return to school safely. It may be that only a few classes can return, and some pupils will receive their education remotely. Onsite support will be available for children of critical workers and vulnerable learners; however, as before this service must only be used where all other options have been exhausted. This is to protect the wellbeing of pupils and staff in the schools. Please contact your school for further information.
- **Week beginning Monday, January 11th-** except for exceptional circumstances pupils will return to school. This arrangement will depend on local circumstances and your school will send you information closer to the date.
- **Week beginning Monday, January 18th-** all pupils will return to school for face-to-face learning, **unless exceptional local circumstances prevent this.**
- **Nursery pupils-** your school will inform you of your start dates.
- Breakfast Clubs and school meals will resume on 7th January.

Gareth Morgans, BAdd/BEd; MGw/MSc

Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Plant,
Neuadd y Sir, Gaerfyrddin, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA31 1JP

Director of Education & Children's Services,
County Hall, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire SA31 1JP



Mae croeso i chi gysylltu â mi yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg

You are welcome to contact me in Welsh or English

I hope this information provides you with some clarity on the return to school, however, your school will be able to give you further information at the start of January. I know this term has not been easy and I would like to thank you for your continued co-operation and support.

It is vital we do all we can to try and reduce the spread of the virus, and we must continue to follow the guidance to protect both ourselves and others.

To assist with the operation of **Test, Trace Protect (TTP)** over the Christmas holiday period, the following arrangements will apply from **5:00 pm on Friday 18th December to 12:00 am (midnight) on Friday 1st January 2021.**

- If your child, or any member of your household has Covid-19 symptoms please request a test by phoning **119** or using the online portal **<https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-covid-19-test>**.
- If your child has a positive Covid test result please contact Delta Wellbeing (**ttp@deltawellbeing.org.uk** or **0300 3332222**) providing your child's name, year group and school. *Please note all self-isolation periods have now changed to 10 days and not 14.*
- If your child becomes symptomatic, there is **no requirement** for you to report this to Delta Wellbeing. This requirement will resume on **Friday 1st January** to enable schools to plan for the start of the new term.

To close, I would like to thank you for your continued support and cooperation. I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully,

Gareth Morgans

Director of Education and Children's Services

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