

Fy nghyf / My ref:

Llinell Uniongyrchol /
Direct Line: 01267
246522

Dyddiad / Date:

11 Chwefror 2021/11 February 2021

Dear parent / carer

We have been working very closely with schools to plan for a phased and safe return of pupils after the half-term break.

Following a number of meetings with Headteachers, it has been agreed that pupils aged 3 - 7 years-old (nursery, reception, year 1 and year 2) will return to school in a phased and flexible way from February 22, with a view to all Foundation Phase pupils to be back in school as soon as practically possible and by March 5 at the latest.

This will allow smaller groups of pupils to attend school and a reduction in the numbers of pupils mixing at any one time in any one place.

Your school will provide you with further information on when your child will return and on what days etc. Each school will be different according to their own individual circumstances in relation to staffing and capacity etc.

Please see below further important information:

- Schools have been given the option to use Monday, February 22 and Tuesday, February 23 as planning and preparation days – your school will inform you.
- There will be no on-site catering available until the week commencing March 1 – pupils will need to take in packed lunches. Free school meal payments will continue for all eligible pupils.
- Schools may provide breakfast club supervision only from February 22 – please check with your school.
- Schools will continue to make on-site provision available for vulnerable children and children of critical workers.
- Schools will continue to provide remote learning for older pupils, however, please be aware that with some pupils returning and schools having to make provision for vulnerable children / critical worker children, it may have an affect on the learning being provided, for example, there may be less live streaming etc.
- Children who are clinically extremely vulnerable (shielding) should not attend school until at least March 31 and will continue to learn from home.

Gareth Morgans, BAdd/BEd; MGw/MSc

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



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You are welcome to contact me in Welsh or English

Please be assured that the safety of both pupils and staff is our main priority, and we have robust health and safety measures in place, which are consistent with the measures identified in the most recent scientific advice.

These include:

- Staggered start and finish times to reduce congestion around school gates at drop-off and collection times
- Effective and frequent hand-washing/sanitising
- Wearing of face coverings (where appropriate)
- Managing movements around the school to reduce contacts
- Ventilation in classrooms via open windows/air conditioning
- 2m social distancing between adults at all times
- Maintaining pupils in consistent contact groups/classroom bubbles
- High levels of effective cleaning
- Staff and pupils to stay at home if they have symptoms, have tested positive or are required to self-isolate
- Effective management of symptomatic pupils / staff at school

Research shows that transmission rates between children and other children, and children and adults in schools is very low; and transmission is more likely in households or via community-based activities for example, sleepovers, children's parties, parents meeting in other homes etc.

Children should not be mixing outside of the classroom environment and contact groups/classroom bubbles only apply within the school setting.

Wales is still in the highest level of restrictions and the 'stay at home' requirements must be adhered to. It is extremely important that we all continue to follow the guidance around hand-washing, social distancing and face coverings. We cannot reiterate how important this is to reduce transmission within our communities.

Please remember:

- Only one parent to drop-off/collect children
- Wear face coverings (unless exempt)
- Do not gather at the school - leave as soon as you have dropped off/collected your children
- Maintain a minimum of 2m social distance from other adults including school staff
- Do not attend school if self-isolating or you have any symptoms
- Do not enter the school grounds without permission (unless in an emergency)

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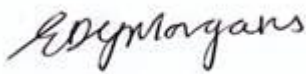
If you or your child or anyone else living in your household has any of the Covid-19 symptoms, you must immediately self-isolate and get tested. It is also important that you inform your school if your child tests positive.

For all the latest information on schools including a comprehensive list of FAQs please visit our website carmarthenshire.gov.wales/education

Your school will be in touch with further detailed information on your child's return to school.

Thank you once again for your continued support and co-operation.

Yours sincerely
Yn gywir



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