



Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre
Caerphilly Road
Ystrad Mynach
Hengoed
CF82 7XW



School No: 01443 866000

January 6th 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your families are continuing to keep safe and healthy in these increasingly strange times and I hope that you were able to enjoy a different type of Christmas and New Year.

As you will know from the media, Coronavirus and in particular, the new strain of the virus that appears to be easier to transmit, is still very much active in our communities meaning that our new ways of working are here for the foreseeable future.

Keeping everyone safe and healthy: we have a range of well-established measures in place to minimise any risks relating to COVID-19. More than ever all staff and pupils will need to follow these safety measures to ensure we keep our school as safe as possible. These include: a one way system around the school building, only allowing access to essential visitors (specialist teachers, therapists etc), postponing any planned whole school events, hand cleaning stations in classrooms and around school, regular hand washing for pupils and staff, enhanced cleaning throughout the school day and staggered drop off and pick up times for pupils. Classrooms will continue to be well ventilated.

Further details can be found in our **Parents/Carers' Guide: COVID-19 School Plan, which is available on the school website.**

All pupils and staff will continue to wash their hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; hand washing will be included in our daily programmes with pupils. **Please continue to practise hand washing with your child at home.** Handwashing will take place in line with the latest WG guidance.

Arrangements for the full re-opening of school: we are currently working to enable all pupils to be back in school (or at one of our satellite classes) by **Monday 18th January 2021**; however, you will all appreciate that the situation is constantly changing and we might need to amend our plans to reflect both local and national guidance. Your child's teacher will be in touch with you today to let you know the days/times for your child; again these may need to change to reflect updated guidance, staffing levels etc.

Break time snacks: please send in a daily snack and drink for your child for morning break. These will need to be clearly marked with your child's name.

School dinners: School meals will be provided as they were last term. The choices are more limited and lunches are served in disposable boxes. Please speak with your child's teacher if you would like further details.

Home-school diaries: we will continue to limit the use of our home-school dairies. Class teams will use either our texting service or "Seesaw" to keep in touch with you. You can also message class teams back through the "Seesaw" app.



School uniform: There will be **NO** expectation for pupils to wear school uniform. Pupils should wear something that is comfortable and **easily washed**. Again, in line with latest guidance **your child's clothes should be washed every day**.

Pupil's health: Any pupil who shows "COVID-type" symptoms while in school will be **immediately isolated** and their parent/carer will be called to collect them as quickly as possible. The pupil and their whole household should immediately isolate at home as per Welsh Government guidance and apply for a COVID-19 test. The child and their siblings will not be able to return to school until the isolation period is over or on production of a negative COVID-19 test result.

Please inform the school if your child is being kept at home because they or another member of your household feel unwell with COVID 19 symptoms or have tested positive for COVID 19. These procedures are **ESSENTIAL** so that we keep everyone safe.

Use of resources and PPE: certain areas of the school are still not being used by pupils at this time; these include light/dark rooms, hydrotherapy pool, sand/water play etc. The handling of objects and resources will be minimised as far as possible. If the weather allows "class bubbles" will use our outside spaces for activities.

Staff at specific times (attending to pupils' personal hygiene needs, feeding time etc.) might be wearing PPE in line with the current guidance. The use of PPE is constantly being reviewed by the Welsh Government and Public Health Wales and our plans and procedures will be updated in line with the most up to date guidance.

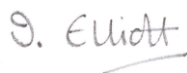
We would appreciate if your child **ONLY** brings essential items to school in a bag that is clearly marked with their name. Wherever possible we are discouraging them from bringing in toys that cannot be easily cleaned (soft toys in particular), blankets etc.

Further information: about our procedures for reopening the school in line with current guidance will be found in our **Parents/Carers' Guide: COVID-19 School Plan**, which can be found on the school website.

Once again, I realise that there is a lot of information in this letter. I know that the situation that we currently find ourselves in is not easy for anyone and I fully recognise the anxieties and worries that you have in sending your child back to school; please be assured that we will fully respect any decisions that you make. Your ongoing support and kind words continue to be very much appreciated by the school team.

Many thanks for your continued support and patience at this very challenging time. Please take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Elliott MBE
Headteacher

Learning together in a changing world, creating success for all

Developing all pupils as ambitious, enterprising, ethical and healthy learners.

