



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

School No: 01443 866000

February 26<sup>th</sup> 2021

## “Wales Alert Level 4 Restrictions: "Stay-at-Home Restrictions”

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family are continuing to keep safe and healthy. At the start of this half term I wanted to give you some updates.

**Foundation Phase:** by the end of school today (February 26th) we will have welcomed back nearly all of our Foundation Phase pupils (3-7 year olds).

**School dinners:** will be available to **ALL** pupils receiving face-to-face teaching on main site from **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March**.

**Wider re-opening of school:** like all schools across Wales we are waiting for additional information from the Welsh Government about the next groups of pupils that will be welcomed back for face-to-face learning. As you will all know from the media the Minister for Education is hopeful that the remaining group of primary aged pupils (8-11 year olds) and some secondary aged pupils will be able to return from March 15th **BUT** this is subject to the infection rates continuing to fall and the "R" number remaining low.

I really do appreciate how difficult the last 12 months have been for you but I want to reassure you that we are doing our very best for school to be open for face-to-face learning for all pupils as soon as it is safe and practicable to do so. When school does reopen for all pupils, it will look very different to how it looked this time last year. We will all be working within an updated risk assessment that will determine what school looks like on a day-to-day basis. I will of course continue to keep you updated as soon as new information is shared with us.

Some of the changes that your child may see will include: staff wearing face coverings, classroom windows and skylights being open for good ventilation and certain activities not being available (sensory rooms, soft play, hydrotherapy pool etc.).

**Staff vaccination:** I am pleased to report that the majority of staff have now received their 1st vaccination. As you will know the degree of immunity increases with time and when the 2nd dose of the vaccination has been administered. We are currently working with the Local Health Board to get our remaining staff vaccinated. To date there is no further information about when staff will get their 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination.

**Staff testing:** in the coming weeks all staff who come into Trinity Fields will be able to take part in twice weekly COVID-19 testing; this will include: class based staff, admin, cleaners, caretakers, catering staff etc. **Weekly testing when it begins will be voluntary.** We are waiting for further details from Public Health Wales and the Welsh Government about these tests. By testing staff twice weekly it does not mean that classes where there is a positive test will not need to self-isolate from time to time; but the twice weekly testing should hopefully mean that there is less of an impact upon the day-to-day running of the school and of course pupils' learning.

Twice weekly testing will enable us to reduce the risk of transmission of Coronavirus by those who show no symptoms. If someone has a positive lateral flow test then they must self-isolate and book a COVID-19 PCR test to prevent further transmission of the virus.



**Other safety measures:** in order to keep pupils and staff as safe as we can the procedures that we have adopted since last March (2020) will continue to be implemented; in fact these will need to be strengthened further in line with the information that we are getting about the new strains of Coronavirus. These measures include:

- Regular and thorough cleaning of the school building, particularly all "high touch" areas (handrails, door handles etc.).
- Maintaining social distancing wherever possible.
- Regular handwashing.
- Good nasal and respiratory hygiene.
- Children and staff **ONLY** attending when they well enough to do so.

With an increasing number of pupils returning to school for face-to-face, learning it is important for us all to remember that we are **NOT** getting back to normal. It does mean that parents/carers coming onto school site should wear face coverings (unless you have an exemption); you should not be having "sleepovers" or arranging birthday parties or after school meet ups etc.

Again, I have shared quite a lot of information with you in this update. On behalf of our staff team I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement at this very challenging time. I have been so impressed with the many excellent examples of home learning that have been shared with us. The videos and photographs certainly show that you are having some great learning experiences alongside your child.

**Please remember if your child is due to attend a face-to-face session at school, they MUST NOT attend:**

- If they are ill, particularly with a high temperature, cough or loss of taste or smell.
- If anyone in your household is ill.
- If anyone in your household is waiting for a COVID test result.
- If you have been in recent contact with anyone with COVID 19.

It is important that we remember: **Hands – Face – Space** bearing in mind that approximately 1 in 3 people who have coronavirus have **NO** symptoms and could be spreading it without realising it.

- **Hands**– wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds.
- **Face**– wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.
- **Space**– stay at least 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible.

We look forward to welcoming more pupils back into school in the near future. Many thanks for your continued support and patience at this very challenging time. Please take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

*I. Elliott*

**Ian Elliott MBE**  
**Headteacher**

*Learning together in a changing world, creating success for all*

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

