



Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre

Caerphilly Road

Ystrad Mynach

Hengoed

CF82 7XW

School No: 01443 866000

March 15th 2021

“Wales Alert Level 4 Restrictions: "Stay Local Restrictions”

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family are continuing to keep safe and healthy. As we are approaching the Easter holidays, I wanted to give you some updates.

Foundation Phase/Key Stage 2

In line with the latest Welsh Government guidance, all pupils in Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 have now returned to school. It has been great welcoming them back!

Wider re-opening of school

In line with the latest Welsh Government guidance, from today (March 15th) all pupils in Years 11, 13 and 14 will return to school. In addition to this, pupils in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will have the opportunity to attend some “catch-up” sessions before school closes for the Easter holidays on Friday 26th March 2021. We certainly have a very enthusiastic group of learners today!

We are all hoping that the infection rates continue to reduce so that we can welcome all pupils back to face-to-face learning from **Monday 12th April 2021**; the Welsh Government will confirm these arrangements as part of their regular 3-weekly reviews of COVID restrictions.

As I have mentioned in my previous updates, school will look very different to how it looked this time last year. We will all be working within an updated risk assessment; this is reviewed regularly. Our risk assessment 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.

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.).

School dinners

School dinners will be available to **ALL** pupils receiving face-to-face teaching.

Staff vaccination

I am pleased to report that the majority of staff will have their second vaccination this coming weekend and on Monday 22nd/Tuesday 23rd March.

We have had no input into the dates/times of the vaccinations. Some have been arranged during the school day which will have an impact on face-to-face learning but we will do all that we can to minimise any disruptions. This said it is very important that staff get their second



vaccine as this will further keep everyone safe and support the full re-opening of school to all pupils.

Staff testing

Staff are now undertaking twice-weekly lateral flow tests. **This twice-weekly testing is voluntary.** By testing staff twice each week 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.

Ongoing safety measures

In order to keep pupils and staff as safe as possible, the procedures that we have adopted since last March (2020) are still being implemented; in fact these will 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.
- Using PPE and face coverings in line with the latest Welsh Government guidance.
- 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. Coronavirus is still very much a reality in our communities.

On behalf of our staff team, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement at this very challenging time. I continue to be impressed with the many excellent examples of home learning that you have shared with us.

Please remember if your child is due to attend face-to-face sessions 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.

Easter holidays

School will close for the Easter holidays on **Friday 26th March 2021**. Subject to Welsh Government updated information, we are currently expecting a full return to school for **ALL** pupils from **Monday 12th April 2021**.

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.

