



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



School No: 01443 866000

September 2nd 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your families are continuing to keep safe and healthy in these very strange times. The months leading up to the summer holidays and the summer holidays themselves were nothing like I have ever experienced in my 20+ years of being a headteacher. I would like to think that it is all behind us but sadly that is not the case. As you will know from the media Coronavirus is still about in our communities and our new ways of working are here for the foreseeable future.

Welcome: a special word of welcome to parents/carers of new pupils to our school. We are really sorry that your child has not had the transition that we would have normally planned for them but please be assured through speaking with you and with their previous class teachers we will quickly get to know them and I'm sure that you will quickly get to know us.

Staff at Trinity Fields have been working hard over the past few months to ensure the school provides as safe an environment as possible for both pupils and staff. We have been planning for the full re-opening of school for some considerable time.

Keeping everyone safe and healthy: as you will remember from my previous letters and updates we have put a range of measures in place to minimise any risks. These include: a one way system around the school building for pupils and staff, 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.

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

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

Arrangements for the full re-opening of school: we are expecting all pupils to be back in school (or at one of our satellite classes) by **Thursday 10th September**; this is in line with the latest WG guidance.

Classes: By now you will all have heard from your child's class teacher about the class arrangements as we re-open school. **Generally we have kept children and staff the same wherever possible.**

School dinners: There will be **NO** school dinners available throughout September. All pupils will be expected to bring their own lunch, snacks and drinks. Lunch boxes, drinking bottles etc need to be clearly marked with your child's name.

Home-school diaries: the use of our home-school dairies will be limited. 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 that school uniform is worn. 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 symptoms compatible with COVID-19 while in school will be **immediately isolated** and their parent/carer will be called to collect them and their siblings 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 rightly 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 will not be 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 is good "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 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 can be found in our **Parents/Carers' Guide: COVID-19 School Plan**, which can be found on the school website.

We are currently working on a "Frequently asked questions" guide that we hope will be available by early next week. A text will be sent to you once this has been uploaded onto the school website.

I realise that there is a lot of information in this letter. I know that this period of lockdown has not been easy for anyone and I fully recognise the anxieties and worries that you have in sending your child back to school. In my 20+ years of being a headteacher I have never experienced anything like this before. Your support and kind words over the past couple of months has been very much appreciated.

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.

