



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



Keep safe

School No: 01443 866000

October 23rd 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your families are continuing to keep safe and healthy in these very uncertain times. 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, especially now that Wales is being put into lockdown as from **23rd October 2020**.

As you will be aware from the media Trinity Fields and all special schools across Wales will reopen to pupils on **Monday 2nd November**. This said I fully understand that many of you continue to have increased anxieties about your child being in school. Our well established measures such as hand cleaning stations in all classrooms, enhanced cleaning before, after and during the school day, limiting visitors to the school, a one-way system around the school, staggered drop off and pick times etc. all help to keep everyone safe.

Hand washing: All pupils and staff will continue to wash their hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; hand washing will continue to be included in our daily programmes with pupils. **We would appreciate if you could continue to practise this with your child at home.** There are hand washing stations in all classes.

Snacks: lunch boxes, drinking bottles etc need to be **clearly marked** with your child's name.

School dinners: we will resume our school dinner service as from **Monday 2nd November**. Pupils will have a hot meal and dessert delivered to classrooms in disposable boxes with fresh drinking water available. Bespoke diets, puree and blended meals will be available as normal.

Over the coming weeks we will be working with the local authority to implement a "cashless" system for school dinners; this system is already in place in secondary schools and gives the added advantage of staff not having to handle money. More information to follow on this.

Home-school diaries: we are continuing to limit the use of these for the foreseeable future. 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.

Drop offs and pick-ups: if you are bringing your child to school and collecting them unfortunately staff will not be able to have the usual catch-up conversations with you. If you need to speak to a member of the class team then please either send a message via the Seesaw app or telephone the school. I apologise for this but we are working hard to minimise our contacts in order to keep everyone safe.

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 until a negative COVID-19 test result has been received.



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.

Alongside this if your child is unwell for any reason then please **do not send them into school until they are well**. This helps to protect our pupils and staff who come into the vulnerable category.

Use of resources and PPE: we are still not using our 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.

Your child should **ONLY** bring 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.

Transport: I hope that by now any issues that we had regarding home to school transport have been resolved. Where possible secondary aged pupils are encouraged to wear face coverings on school transport and in communal parts of the school such as the corridors.

Annual reviews: Person Centred Reviews will continue to take place remotely this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. An invite will be sent out 6 weeks prior to the review stating the week of the review date. Your class teacher will then link with you in order to organise a convenient day and time for the review to take place. Any questions relating to reviews please contact Cath Farmer (Admin support) or Christine Thomas (Assistant Head).

Parents' evening: we will send home details of how our "virtual" parents' evening will take place after the half term break.

PDG Access Grant: a reminder to families eligible for the PDG Access Grant that applications can still be submitted. This funding is available to pupils who are eligible for free school meals entering **Reception, Year 3, Year 7 and Year 10 only**. Further information can be found on the school website.

Once again I know that there is a lot of information in this letter. Our current situation is not where any of us would want to be; I fully understand the anxieties and worries that you have about your child being in school. 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.

