



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

School No: 01443 866000

Update: September 10th 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 Caerphilly is in local lockdown.

I realise that many of you will have increased anxieties about your child returning to school. All I can say in an attempt to reassure you is that we have worked very closely with the local authority to ensure risks to pupils and staff are minimised. Our measures such as hand cleaning stations in all classrooms, enhanced cleaning before, after and during the school day, limiting visitors to the school, a way one system around the school, staggered drop off and pick times etc. all help to keep everyone safe.

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

Hand washing: 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.**

School dinners/snacks: Lunch boxes, drinking bottles etc need to be **clearly marked** with your child's name.

Home-school diaries: we will be limiting 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 usually 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 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 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.

Transport: I know that some of you have experienced some issues with school transport. There are always teething issues at the start of every school year. This September these issues were increased by COVID-19. I do hope that nearly all of these issues have now been resolved.

Consultation about extension to Trinity Fields: Caerphilly will begin a consultation which will run from **Monday 14th September 2020 until Monday 26th October 2020** about their proposals to extend Trinity Fields so that we have the capacity in the future to meet the increasing numbers of pupils needing placements with us. I urge you to complete this consultation which you will be able to access from a link on our website which will go live on Monday. If you have any issues with accessing the consultation then please let us know so that we can help you. In the middle of a pandemic this is such great news for our pupils and their school.

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).

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.

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.

