

18.06.2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are all well and helping each other to get through these difficult times. You will know by now that schools are due to re-open on June 29th.

Schools have been asked to:

- provide childcare for children of key workers and for those most vulnerable pupils (continuing to operate as Hubs);
- continue to support pupils who do not attend schools through distance learning;
- *“Check in, catch up and prepare”* with all pupils who attend, with no more than a maximum of a third of pupils on site at any one time;
- focus on well-being and to support pupils in whatever way necessary. This is an opportunity to re-engage those who might have become unmotivated or who have stalled in their learning, as well as to re-assure for September; and
- provide as safe an environment as possible in regard to social distancing and hygiene.

The LA are supporting schools by assisting with risk assessments and changes to the school sites, so that they can operate as safely as possible. We are also offering advice to headteachers in regard to their plans.

All schools are different and headteachers will be in contact with you with details of when your children will be able to attend, should you want them to.

Nursery and rising 3s are not expected to be included in the check in, catch up and prepare sessions. However, it is up to individual schools if they have capacity to offer a session and they will communicate with you to clarify position as soon as possible.

Cont'd

What we do know is that when your children attend, it will be a very different experience from what they remember. There will be different systems and a different emphasis on social distancing and hygiene. School staff will be maximising the sessions with your children so that they can help them to manage anxieties and support them in organising their learning for next term. Headteachers are having to plan carefully within limited capacity to ensure a fair offer to all children, so please wait for contact to know when your child is expected to attend.

We can confirm that catering services will be suspended and that children will be asked to bring in their own packed lunch. Children in receipt of free school meals will receive sandwich packs as part of their regular meal delivery.

We will now be focussing on transport arrangements for those eligible but, wherever possible, it will be safer if you could do this yourselves for the moment.

I know that you will have many questions, and that your headteacher will want to put your minds at rest.

I will be writing to you again before school starts to outline some of the approaches we have taken. Please be reassured by the fact that our childcare hubs have run for 12 weeks from 11 different centres, and have an excellent safety record. Staff and children attending have been able to enjoy doing activities together and forming new friendships.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'K Cole', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Keri Cole

Chief Education Officer, Caerphilly County Borough Council

18.06.2020

Annwyl Riant/Ofalydd

Gobeithio eich bod chi'n iach ac yn helpu'ch gilydd i ymdopi â'r cyfnod anodd hwn. Erbyn hyn, byddwch chi'n gwybod bod disgwyl i'r ysgolion ail-agor ar 29 Mehefin.

Bu gofyn i ysgolion:

- darparu gofal plant yn achos plant gweithwyr allweddol a'r disgyblion mwyaf agored i niwed (gan barhau i weithredu fel Hybiau);
- parhau i helpu disgyblion nad ydyn nhw'n mynychu'r ysgol drwy ddysgu o bell;
- *"ailgydio, dal i fyny a pharatoi"* gyda phob disgybl sy'n mynychu'r ysgol, a dim mwy na thraean o'r disgyblion ar y safle ar unrhyw un adeg;
- canolbwyntio ar les, a helpu disgyblion ym mha ffordd bynnag sy'n angenrheidiol – dyma gyfle i sicrhau bod y rhai sydd, o bosibl, wedi colli cymhelliant neu sydd ar ei hôl hi o ran dysgu, yn ailgydio mewn addysg, yn ogystal â thawelu eu meddwl ar gyfer mis Medi; a
- darparu amgylchedd mor ddiogel â phosibl, o ran materion cadw pellter cymdeithasol a hylendid.

Mae'r Awdurdod Lleol yn rhoi cymorth i ysgolion drwy eu helpu nhw i wneud asesiadau risg a newidiadau ar safleoedd yr ysgolion, fel eu bod nhw'n gallu gweithredu mor ddiogel â phosibl. Rydyn ni hefyd yn cynnig cyngor i benaethiaid o ran eu cynlluniau.

Mae pob ysgol yn wahanol, a bydd y penaethiaid yn cysylltu â chi er mwyn rhannu'r manylion am bryd y bydd eich plant yn cael mynychu'r ysgol, os byddwch chi eisiau i'ch plant wneud hynny.

Trosodd ..

Nid oes disgwyl i feithrinfeydd a phlant sy'n 3 oed gael eu cynnwys yn y sesiynau gwirio i mewn, dal i fyny a pharatoi. Fodd bynnag, mater i ysgolion unigol yw os oes ganddynt y gallu i gynnig sesiwn, a byddant yn cyfathrebu â chi i egluro'r sefyllfa cyn gynted â phosibl.

Dyma'r hyn rydyn ni'n ei wybod: pan fydd eich plant yn mynychu'r ysgol, bydd hi'n brofiad gwahanol iawn i'r hyn y maen nhw'n ei gofio. Bydd systemau gwahanol a phwyslais gwahanol o ran materion cadw pellter cymdeithasol a hylendid. Bydd staff yr ysgol yn gwneud y mwyaf o'r sesiynau gyda'ch plant, fel eu bod nhw'n gallu helpu'ch plant i reoli pryderon a'u helpu nhw i drefnu eu dysgu ar gyfer y tymor nesaf. Mae'n rhaid i bennaethiaid gynllunio'n ofalus o fewn capasiti cyfyngedig i sicrhau cynnig teg i bob plentyn, felly arhoswch am gyswllt i wybod pryd mae disgwyl i'ch plentyn fod yn bresennol.

Gallwn ni gadarnhau y bydd gwasanaethau arlwyo yn cael eu hatal, a bydd eisiau i'r plant ddod â'u pecyn bwyd eu hunain. Bydd plant sy'n cael prydau ysgol am ddim yn cael pecynnau o frechdanau fel rhan o'r prydau o fwyd sy'n cael eu dosbarthu.

Byddwn ni nawr yn canolbwyntio ar drefniadau cludo ar gyfer y rhai sy'n gymwys, ond, ble bynnag y bo modd, bydd hi'n fwy diogel os byddwch chi'n cludo'ch plant rhwng eich cartref a'r ysgol am y tro.

Rwy'n gwybod y bydd gennych chi lawer o gwestiynau, ac y bydd eich pennaeth am dawelu'ch meddwl.

Byddaf i'n ysgrifennu atoch chi eto cyn i'r ysgol ddechrau, gan amlinellu rhai o'r dulliau rydyn ni wedi'u rhoi ar waith. Gallwch chi fod yn dawel eich meddwl fod ein hybiau gofal plant wedi rhedeg am 12 wythnos, mewn 11 o ganolfannau gwahanol, a bod ganddyn nhw record diogelwch rhagorol. Mae'r staff a'r plant sydd wedi bod yn mynychu'r hybiau wedi gallu mwynhau gwneud gweithgareddau gyda'i gilydd a gwneud ffrindiau newydd.

Yn gywir,



Keri Cole,

Prif Swyddog Addysg, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili