



12.06.2020

Dear Parents/Carers

On 3 June 2020, the Minister for Education announced that schools in Wales would increase operations from 29 June 2020 so that all learners have an **optional** opportunity to 'check in, catch up and prepare for summer and September'. The Summer term has been extended for a week, up to and including Friday 24 July 2020 and there will be an additional week's holiday in October, the date of which is yet to be confirmed by Welsh Government. The full guidance can be found here: <https://gov.wales/keep-education-safe-guidance-learning-over-summer-term>.

BCBC guidance requests that children are given an opportunity to access school on two occasions before the end of the Summer term. The government expects that any pupil in receipt of a shielding letter refrains from coming to school and that any pupil with an ongoing health condition seeks medical advice before doing so. Keyworker hubs are still operating under the admission of the local authority and we ask you to contact BCBC directly if you wish to enquire about accessing, or for many of you continuing to access, the emergency childcare hub provision.

The optional check-in sessions are contact time in school. This is not statutory education for Wales and no formal lessons will take place during this time. Our online Hwb provision of activities will continue to the end of the Summer term. The check-in opportunities will offer pupils (Nursery to Year 6) a time to attend school in a small group of some of their classmates with a member of staff (where possible, this will be their class teacher). Age-appropriate activities will take place, both in classrooms and outside in the school grounds. Breaktimes and lunchtimes will be staggered to reduce the possibility of cross-contamination with other groups of learners also present on-site, as will the start and finish times of the school day. We have already carried out an analysis of sibling groups and, where possible, we will endeavour to accommodate siblings attending on the same day(s). We do not expect uniform to be worn during this time and the guidance recommends that children wear appropriate, comfortable clothing which is machine washable. We will ask pupils to bring in the minimum level of equipment and personal belongings. We fully acknowledge and appreciate that many of you will be anxious about the possibility of your child(ren) returning to school and we will work with you over forthcoming weeks to ensure that your child receives a positive experience if they wish to attend.

We are working to meet the draft Local Authority and published Welsh Government guidance in so far as is practicable, including putting plans and arrangements in place to adhere to guidance surrounding social distancing, hygiene, restricting class numbers and provision of catering and cleaning services in line with our service level agreements with the local authority. School as we know it will, and has to, change and you will also see social distancing on school transport, in the school yard on drop off and on collection. There will be one-way

systems in place on the school site and within the school building. Non-essential meetings and visits have been postponed to reduce the number of personnel on site. We will of course provide you with more specific guidance before the pupils return to school and we ask that all persons on site respect the temporary arrangements. In carrying out and implementing our risk assessments, we have support, advice and legal guidance from the authority and our independent advice providers. No school, whether during a pandemic or not, will ever be completely risk-free and we are acknowledging specific risks and mitigating these where we are able to do so.

Some of you have already been in touch with us to ask us about class arrangements for next year and arrangements for transition to the next stage of your child's education. Transition activities have already been facilitated for Year 6 from our local schools and this will continue during the rest of the term. We do not as yet have details of class arrangements for September, but again we will communicate these when we can.

There is no requirement to send your child to school for the check-in sessions in June/July. However, to assist us in planning our classroom allocation and staffing ratios for the rest of the Summer term, next week we will be inviting you to complete a short survey to let us know if you wish your child(ren) to access the check-in sessions. We will send the survey link out to you following the publication of the local authority guidance to parents, which is expected early next week.

Once again, we thank you for your ongoing co-operation during these difficult times and your understanding and patience in what will be a learning experience for us all. We do not yet know what September will bring in terms of the pandemic or education and we will ensure that we continue to communicate any developments to you as soon as we are able to. If you do have any specific queries around your child(ren) returning to school, please do not hesitate to contact us on the school email address of admin.broogwr@bridgend.gov.uk to discuss these.

Best Wishes

Sharon Jayne

Headteacher Nik

Nik Dart

Chair of Governors