

16/12/21

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Following a letter from the Minister for Education and Welsh Language today, I would like to share further information with you about arrangements to return to school in January. Further details are available in [this letter](#) from Swansea's Director of Education.

Due to the uncertainty about the impact of the new Omicron variant, **pupils will not attend school on the first two days of term as Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th January** will now be 'preparation days', so that schools can prepare for:

- assessing staffing capacity;
- preparing for a return to 'risk level high';
- put necessary safety measures in place to support the return of learners;
- prepare for a move towards distance learning, if necessary, with specific groups of pupils e.g. different years due to the change to 'risk level high';
- prioritising provision for exam years to continue with face-to-face learning;
- putting plans in place so that some of our learners can continue to sit their January exams safely (see [this link](#) for an additional package of support for learners);
- provision for vulnerable pupils and pupils who are children of key workers;

High Risk Level Changes

We have been continuing to implement a number of measures to reduce the spread of the virus since the beginning of the term. However, as a result of this change, it is anticipated that we will be expected to implement the following in accordance with the Local Decision Making Framework and the school's risk assessment:

- masks to be worn in highly populated areas and in lessons;
- re-introducing contact groups of pupils – year groups at Bryn Tawe;
- changing departure times at the end of the day (as we did previously). We will keep our arrival arrangements in order to separate pupils on arrival at the building.
- delaying clubs and team sports.

LFD Testing

Pupils and school staff are expected to take 3 LFT tests on a weekly basis (Monday, Wednesday and Fridays) so that any asymptomatic cases can be identified, as well as during the week before returning to school in January.

It is expected that pupils will be able to return to school on Thursday 6th January. If there is any change to the above arrangements over the festive period, I will inform you as soon as possible. See these [School-operations-FAQs](#)- from WG for further information.

Thank you once again for your continued support for us at school and for the messages of support – they are very much appreciated! Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Successful New Year to you all.



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BUDDSODDWYR
MEWN POBL

Aur



Pennaeth : Mr Simon Davies



Sincerely,

Simon Davies



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