

05/06/22

Dear Parent / Guardian,

A Happy New Year to all our parents, guardians and learners. I sincerely hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable time over the festive period.

I would like to confirm that the school will be open to learners in all year groups from Thursday morning the 06/01/22. Naturally, with the increase in positive cases in the community, we will continue to monitor our staffing situation carefully, and inform you of any changes to the normal running of the school as soon as possible.

Following a decision by WG, we return to school at the 'Very High Risk Level' in accordance with the Covid decision-making framework. The directives below explain the implications for us here at Bryn Tawe:

**Under no circumstances should learners attend school if they:**

- **have tested positive** for COVID-19 through an LFT or PCR test;
- **feel unwell with any of the symptoms of COVID-19** (persistent cough; high temperature; loss of taste; loss of smell). If a learner develops symptoms, they should undertake a PCR test as soon as possible, and self-isolate until they receive the test result. If the test is negative, they can return to school.

Any learner who develops symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day will be sent home immediately.

**FACE COVERINGS / MASKS:**

- Learners, staff and visitors need to wear face coverings in **all indoor areas of the school, including classrooms.**
- Learners need to continue to wear face coverings on **school transport.**

**LFT TESTING**

- **Secondary age learners are expected to use LFT tests and record their results three times a week before coming to school** on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- If learners **test positive when using an LFT test, they should immediately self-isolate and book a PCR test.**
- We will provide sufficient LFTs (per fortnight) for all pupils to be able to test three times a week.
- **There is a new protocol for learners identified as a 'close contact of a positive case'. If identified as a close contact to a positive case, learners are expected to use lateral flow tests (LFTs) daily for 7 consecutive days.** This is defined as 'Daily Contact Testing'. Following this period, learners should then return to testing 3 times weekly.
- Learners undertaking 'Daily Contact Tests' should **use them before they arrive at school every day.** These individuals do not need to self-isolate for that day if the result is negative.
- We can provide more LFTs for pupils who are identified as 'close contacts to a positive case'.



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Pennaeth : Mr Simon Davies



- **In order to protect the Bryn Tawe school community from infection**, we ask you as parents/guardians to ensure that your child/children follow the above testing protocols on a weekly basis.

#### COVID MEASURES:

In line with the 'Very High Risk Level', we will continue to act on the health advice and guidance we receive from WG and the LA, which currently asks all school staff and learners to:

- Wash hands thoroughly or sanitise hands more often than usual.
- Maintain good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, throw it, destroy it, wash your hands' approach.
- Reduce contact between individuals and maintain social distancing where possible.
- Ensure that all rooms and corridors are appropriately ventilated.
- Ensure more frequent cleaning, including routine and regular cleaning of frequently-touched surfaces
- Implement and adhere to a one-way system throughout the building.

#### SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

**All pupils will need to bring their own equipment** for school as sharing equipment contravenes the new guidance. Should you envisage any difficulties in providing suitable equipment for your child, please contact us to discuss the matter, so that we can support all learners.

#### BREAK AND LUNCH TIMES

We will continue to stagger these periods and keep year groups separate during break and lunch times in the canteen, school halls and playgrounds. We know that it is safer for all learners to be outside in the fresh air during break and lunchtimes, we therefore ask you to **ensure that your child brings a warm coat to school** (particularly during the winter months) so that recreation time can be spent outdoors. Alternative arrangements will be made within the school halls in the event of inclement weather conditions.

It is clear when operating within the new risk level that we need to strengthen Covid measures within the school in order to be able to protect all learners, staff and families within the Bryn Tawe community. It is disappointing to note that not all pupils consistently complied with some measures during the previous term, specifically in relation to not wearing a face covering appropriately, and not following the one-way system. We kindly ask again for your continued support in ensuring that your child recognises the seriousness of such measures, and respects the importance of following all protocols.

I would ask you all to re-emphasise the importance of these measures in order to be able to support the health and wellbeing of staff and pupils and enable us to maintain face-to-face learning within the school.

If you have any questions in relation to the above, please contact us at the school.

Sincerely,

*Simon Davies*



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