

Head Teacher:

Seven Sisters

Mr G. Phillips BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

NEATH

Deputy Head Teacher:

SA10 9AA

Mrs C. Wheadon BEd (Hons)

Tel & Fax: 01639 700261

Email: blaendulaisprimary@npt.school

4th January 2021

Re: Return to school protocol January 2021 v.2

Dear Parents/Carers,

The following is guidance released by NPT officials regarding the return to school position. This information is subject to constant change:

Please see overleaf for information on our return to school details.

*Following discussions with Welsh Government officials, it has been decided that all Neath Port Talbot schools will suspend face to face learning until **Monday, January 11th**.*

This will provide further time to analyse the profile of the virus over the Christmas and New Year periods, it will also facilitate an opportunity to benefit from a richer set of data that is expected to be released on Wednesday, January 6th and to gain further national analysis and advice, including further advice on the new variant. We expect to be in a position to provide further guidance on January 6th.

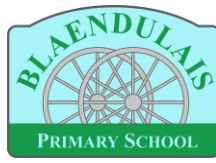
Case rates across NPT whilst appearing to have fallen are still exceptionally high.

Planned buffer days and INSET days are unaffected. Schools should continue to use the two buffer days in order to risk assess capacity and plan their opening arrangements.

As noted previously the two buffer days will be in addition to planned INSET days.

*The **'first day of opening'** is the day the school is open to pupils after accounting for INSET and buffer days.*

*Schools will still be obliged to provide onsite learning for vulnerable learners and for the children of critical workers (<https://gov.wales/identifying-children-critical-workers-guidance>) from their **first day of opening to pupils**. Remote learning will need to be provided to all other learners.*



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Blaendulais Primary School – Return to school plans

Mon/Tues, 4th/5th Jan

– ‘Buffer’ Days – school closed to pupils

Weds, 6th Jan

– INSET Day (3 of 6) – school closed to pupils

Thurs/Fri, 7th/8th Jan

– School open to identified learners (Teachers to contact parents/carers w/b 4th January – phone numbers may be withheld/no caller ID), and children of Critical Workers (see link above). Parents/Carers who are critical workers must contact school to arrange pupil place – blaendulaisprimary@npt.school

All other learners will be provided with remote learning via the school website and daily ‘check-ins’ with their teacher via Microsoft Teams – this will be shared as soon as possible.

If your child is in need of a device (Chromebook), please inform school as soon as possible. Devices must be signed for (NPT usage contract) and returned when school returns to face-to-face learning.

Mon, 11th Jan onward

- **School open to all learners.** This is subject to local/national change. The school will endeavour to inform you of change as soon as we are aware of any changes.

Warmest regards,

Mr Gareth Phillips