



Wednesday 1st April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

In order to ensure care for the children of essential workers over the Easter break, the Local Authority will be establishing 'Hubs' for childcare over the two weeks of the holidays, excluding the bank holidays. The Hub that our children will be attending will be held at Ysgol Bae Baglan (Seaway Parade Port Talbot SA12 7BL.)

The care hub will be open from Monday 6th of April to Thursday 9th of April, and then Tuesday 14th of April to Friday 17th of April from 8.30 am until 5.00 pm. Your child will have a meal provided at lunch time with no cost to yourself. On your first day, you will be given an information leaflet about the Hub and how to get in touch with us if there is a problem.

Each hub will provide a safe and warm environment for the pupils and the staff, from our school, who will be supervising the children. Each school will be allocated areas to use and will not be combining with other schools, as that will make sure that social distancing principles can be followed safely. Your children will be supervised by volunteer staff from their primary school so that you can be confident that your child is being cared for by staff that you know and trust.

Could I again repeat what our Director of Education emphasised in his letter to parents before schools closed. The purpose of closing schools is to restrict and minimise social contact and therefore reduce the risk of being infected by the coronavirus.

Therefore, if it is at all possible, please keep your children at home. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.

We will continue to ensure that the Hubs provide caring facilities for parents who are at the forefront of the national effort to fight the coronavirus disease. We want to ensure that these vital workers are given every opportunity to be in work and to get on with their efforts to protect our lives and wellbeing.

In accordance with the above, we will limit attendance at the Hub to those who are who are single parents and/both parents are employed within:

Health and social care sectors.

To education and childcare staff, including social workers.

Key public services, i.e. those responsible for the management of the deceased.

Local and national government

- This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response, or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits.

Food and other necessary goods

- This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery.

Public safety and national security

- This includes police and support staff, fire and rescue service employees (including support staff) and prison and probation staff.

Transport

- This includes those who will keep the road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

The Hub provision arrangements have been established following close discussion by the Local Authority with Public Health Wales and they will continue to be reviewed carefully by the school and the Local Authority.

If your child will be attending on any day during the two week holiday, could you please email the school on melinprimary@npt.school stating your child's name and year group so that we can provide you with further information about how and where to drop your child to us at the Hub.

Free School Meal Entitled Pupils

Neath Port County Borough Council has decided to issue bank transfer payments to parents of those pupils entitled to free school meals (does not include Nursery). In order for parents/carers to receive the payment to their bank account, they will need to follow the instructions from the Local Authority which will be sent out by post to your home.

With that new system in place, the Grab and Go lunch scheme will be finishing on Friday 3rd of April. Can I thank the catering staff and school staff for all their efforts in providing this service.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely,

T. Richards

Headteacher