



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

Dyddiad/ Date	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
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Cyswllt/ Contact	
Eich cyf / Your ref	
Ein cyf/ Our ref	AE/jg

Dear Parent / Carer

Last week the Education Minister in Wales announced the gradual reopening of schools for check in and catch up arrangements.

This will provide an opportunity for children and young people to attend schools for allocated slots in order that they can be supported in their wellbeing and learning. The check in, catch up arrangements will vary from school to school, they should focus on responding to pupils' emotional health and wellbeing needs and on ensuring that there is continuity between school-based support and home learning.

At this point, I need to thank you, as parents, for the educational support you have been providing over the past twelve weeks and the way you have nurtured a vibrant partnership with schools. It is unlikely that schools will return to the way they were operated prior to the lockdown for some considerable time; it's difficult to place a timeframe on this. We need to approach the check in, catch up arrangements as first steps towards inspiring and exciting pupils about learning once again.

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2.

Our school staff have been fantastic in the way they have kept learning going. It is clear from recent experience that learning knows no boundaries and will not be locked down. However, the restrictions placed on schools will be lifted carefully and cautiously. Each individual school will make decisions on how they will open and which age groups will be prioritised. We expect this process to be developmental and as schools and their communities gain greater confidence and rhythm, they will progress towards admitting up to a third of pupils at any one time, though it may take time to reach this level of operation.

We appreciate that there will be apprehension and uncertainty. Schools will engage with parents over the next few weeks to inform them of their reopening plans and to provide reassurances where they are needed.

Staff are preparing schools to ensure that their operation complies with local and national guidance and ensure that they are as safe as possible for pupils and staff.

We expect schools to contact pupils and provide them with letters welcoming them to their new environments, preparing them to make the most of their time at school and explaining how their learning experiences will be enhanced.

We will require schools to ensure that pupils and parents understand as soon as possible how environments, procedures and operation have been adapted in order to accommodate, as safely as possible, the return of pupils to schools. These arrangements will be reviewed regularly and will be subject to change wherever necessary, placing the safety of pupils and staff at the centre of consideration.

Hub childcare provision will cease on the 19<sup>th</sup> June and revert to schools, where childcare provision for the children of critical workers and vulnerable learners will be provided until the end of term.

Owing to the regulations set by Welsh Government on social distancing, our home to school transport provision will be significantly restricted. All parents are encouraged to transport their own children to school. We will be prioritising transport arrangements for pupils entitled to transport based on their SEN assessment and pupils attending year 7,8,9,10 and 12 provision.

Your school will inform you of these arrangements in more detail.

3.

We will support schools to approach their check in and catch up arrangements with care and confidence, with diligence and detail and with assurance and optimism.

I invite you to engage with this process in order that we can take these steps forward together, supporting our children to continue to learn and to succeed.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aled Evans'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Aled' and the last name 'Evans' clearly distinguishable.

***Director of Education, Leisure & Lifelong Learning  
Cyfarwyddwr Addysg, Hamdden a Dysgu Gydol Oes***