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Tuesday 30th of June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's lovely to be able to write this letter to you with children actually on both sites and enjoying their first week back at school. It's also been lovely to catch up with parents in the yard in the mornings and end of school. Many parents are asking about what September will look like in the school. Unfortunately, at this moment, I don't know with certainty. What I do know though is that we will continue to plan for all eventualities and keep you informed as much as possible.

The children that we've had in for the past two days have spent their time with their teachers catching up on what they've been up to and helping them to discuss what is a very strange and uncertain time as well as touching base on their distance learning. It's been great to see children playing in the yard with the new play equipment and following the rules we've put in place to make sure everyone is safe. Our teaching assistants, school clerks, caretaker and the NPT Cleaning Services have done a great job in making sure that the environment is as clean and safe as it can be for which I am grateful.

It's also been lovely to have phone calls from parents saying that they've changed their mind after initially saying they didn't want their children to return before September. If anyone else has changed their mind and you want your child to return sooner, PLEASE get in touch by email at melinprimary@npt.school or ring us on 01639 645414 and we can give you a day for them to attend. We'd love to see you all and your children back with us.

We've been able to plan to welcome Reception children back with us from next week too and we are building plans to get our Nursery children who are moving to Reception in September back with us for a short period of time before the end of term. Thank you for your patience and understanding. We really want the children back in as soon as is safe and possible.

We are continuing to develop our transition plans for children moving phase next year and we are developing information packs for parents of children entering Nursery for the first time, those moving from Nursery into Reception and those children moving from Year 2 to Year 3. We'll share this information with you and, as part of the information, we will have a 'frequently asked questions' section. If you have a child who is moving from Nursery into Reception or from Year 2 to Year 3 and you have any questions, can you please email them to melinprimary@npt.school by the end of this week and we can include them in the frequently asked question section. There really are no silly questions, please ask them and rest assured we won't put names in showing who asked the questions. Cefn Saeson are developing their plans for transition information for children in Year 6.

Don't forget that the distance learning is continuing for all pupils for the next three weeks before we break up on Friday July 17th. If there are any problems with the distance learning, please contact the school and we'll do our best to help.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

'Motivating, Engaging, Learning, Inspiring, Nurturing'

Can I thank you all for your support and understanding at what have been difficult times for the staff as well as the children and your families. We've been really appreciative of the messages of thanks that we've had from parents. If there is anything we can help with, please get in touch and we'll do our best to help.

Finally, please find a message below from Mr. Aled Evans, Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning at Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

Yours sincerely,

T. Richards
Headteacher

Message from NPT Local Authority

Dear Parent / Carer

In response to the early lockdown period, Neath Port Talbot local authority provided hub childcare facilities for critical workers. This was an immediate response to the emergency childcare needs for those on the frontline of the national cause to minimise the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Schools were repurposed in line with Welsh Government's guidance to provide these facilities.

Following consultation with other agencies including the NHS and as we progress our national recovery programme, the same level of need no longer exists and the lifting of restrictions allows for childcare to be delivered by more normal means. The repurposing of schools has been reversed and as a result, the local authority will not be providing summer childcare for critical workers. This decision is in accordance with other neighbouring local authorities, Welsh Government decisions and paves an opportunity for childcare providers in Neath Port Talbot to re-establish their businesses and ensure that childcare needs are met accordingly.

Families wishing to access childcare are welcome to contact the local authority's Family Information Service (fis@npt.gov.uk) who will provide a list of registered providers who would be able to meet their needs.

The local authority's Children Services and Education Directorate are currently constructing a summer support programme for our most vulnerable learners, many of whom have found lockdown conditions particularly challenging and detrimental. This programme will seek to deliver bespoke support for those assessed to be our most isolated children and young people suffering from increased stresses and substantial psychological inequality. The programme will be configured around

current resource, allowing services to deliver increased opportunities for safe social interaction and enhanced wellbeing and mental health interventions.

Again, we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to parents and carers for their understanding and cooperation during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,

Aled Evans

Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning

