



**Powys County Council  
County Hall  
Llandrindod Wells  
Powys  
LD1 5LG**

Date: 5 March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

We want to share with you the latest information about plans for more pupils in Powys to have the opportunity to return to the classroom ahead of the Easter break.

The Minister for Education in Wales, Kirsty Williams, announced on 3 March that schools would be given the opportunity to welcome back pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9. The planned return of younger secondary school pupils is in addition to all primary pupils, who are expected to return from Monday 15 March along with learners in Years 10 and 12, those in exam years and students doing similar qualifications.

Following discussions with senior leaders from our schools, the arrangements will be:

### **Primary schools**

All Key Stage Two pupils (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) will be back in school from Monday 15 March.

To prepare for their return, there will be no live online teaching on Thursday 11 and Friday 12 March. These two days will be used for blended learning with a focus on wellbeing.

Primary schools will still be open for Foundation Phase pupils and children of critical workers on Thursday 11 and Friday 12 March.

### **Secondary schools**

There will be no live online teaching on Friday 12 March. This will be a Wellbeing Day for secondary school pupils.

From Monday 15 March, Years 11 and 13 and other qualification years (Years 10 and 12) will attend their school on a rota basis. This will be determined by individual schools.

There is an expectation that pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be provided with a catch-up session in the fortnight leading up to the Easter holidays. Again, this will be determined by individual schools.

**I must make it clear that secondary school pupils will be returning to their school from Monday 15 March on a rota basis. Parents / carers of secondary-aged pupils will be contacted by their school on what the arrangements will be.**

### **Special schools and pupil referral units**

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Parents / carers of pupils that attend special schools and pupil referral units will be contacted by their school on what the arrangement will be from Monday 15 March until the end of term.

We have also agreed with schools that the dress code for school uniforms is relaxed from Monday 15 March until the end of term.

The return of pupils will only be possible if Covid-19 transmission rates remain low in the county. If circumstances change and the rates increase, then our schools will only be open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers.

It is important that families follow the guidance here in Wales to limit the spread of the virus. This includes:

- Only share a lift to school if you have to;
- Wear a mask when you drop off and pick up your child from school;
- Catch up with friends over the phone, NOT at the school gate;
- Always remember – hands, face, space;
- School bubbles are for school only;
- Keep your child at home if they are unwell – even if you don't think it's Coronavirus.

Please note that as schools return, this is not life back to normal yet. It is important to continue to adhere to the current guidelines outside of school which means that sleepovers and parties etc are not permissible and will be putting the safe return to school at risk.

We will also inform you before the end of term of what the arrangements will be for pupils after the Easter holidays.

I would like to thank schools for their ongoing efforts to support pupils during this difficult time and I would also like to thank parents for their patience and co-operation during this unprecedented period of disruption to our schools.

Yours sincerely,

**CIIR Phyl Davies**  
**Cabinet Portfolio for Education and Property**