



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

Date: 11 December 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Once again, thank you for your support during this critical period in a public health crisis.

Infection rates are at record levels and we all need to play our part to bring this situation under control and quickly. If infections continue to rise at the current rate then there is a very real danger the local system will be overwhelmed during the festive period.

As a result of the Chief Medical Officer in Wales' advice overnight, secondary schools across Wales will switch to online learning from Monday 14 December 2020.

Following representation from primary school, special school and pupil referral unit headteachers, consideration of attendance figures and particularly the 10 days rule on isolation before Christmas, Powys County Council has decided to move primary and special schools and pupil referral units to blended learning.

This will take place from Tuesday 15 December 2020. This is the right thing to do for our primary and special schools and our pupil referral units given the current circumstances.

Primary, special and pupil referral unit sites will still be open until Friday 18 December for our vulnerable learners including pupils entitled to free school meals. There will also be provision for children who have a parent that works in the NHS or in social care and they are unable to make alternative arrangements within their extended household.

School transport will continue as normal until Friday 18 December.

Please can I emphasise that your child needs to be at home and learning until 18 December. It is vital that children not in school do not go out meeting up with groups of friends but stay at home and minimise contact. Coronavirus rates in Powys are rising and if children and young people are out and mixing freely it will only make matters worse.

This has been a difficult decision to take but one that we hope parents and carers can understand.

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Please do your bit to fight coronavirus and to keep yourself and your families safe.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Phyl Davies
Cabinet Member for Education and Property

Geraint Rees
Strategic Lead for Education

Lynette Lovell
Interim Chief Education Officer

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