



Headteacher: Mr. T. Richards B.Ed (Hons) NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. D. Harris B.Ed (Hons)
Address: Mile End Row, Melincryddan, Neath, SA11 2ED
Telephone and Fax: (01639) 645414
Email: melinprimary@npt.school www.npted.org/melinprimary

Friday 11th of December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please read the following letter from the Director of Education, Leisure and Life Long Learning, Mr. Aled Evans regarding the arrangements for next week.

END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS AT NEATH PORT TALBOT FOR PRIMARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Pupils of a primary school age and those attending special schools will be moving to distance learning provision in NPT from Tuesday, **15th December**, onwards. Schools will be delivering learning remotely and ensuring that pupils continue with their studies until the end of term on **December 18th**.

It is vitally important that all pupils engage with this on-line provision and we must emphasise that, on the advice of Public Health Wales, children and young people should not be allowed to meet with friends and congregate in public places. This remains a school week and all staff and pupils are expected to respect it as such.

This decision also allows families to pre-isolate for the Christmas break (e.g. not mixing outside of the household) for one incubation period (10 days). This is seen as an effective way of lowering the risk of infecting others. Self-isolation remains of paramount importance for anyone with COVID-19 symptoms.

Head teachers will be making local decisions regarding the support for vulnerable pupils who will be expected to attend according to the school's advice and schools are advised to accommodate children of key workers. Transport will continue to be available to those pupils who currently qualify for home to school transport.

This is not an early Christmas holiday, and we request that pupils and parents do everything they can to minimise contact with others.

All pupils can make a difference to reducing the transmission of the virus by staying at home, engaging with their learning and by being responsible in their actions.

Those pupils attending school on Tuesday 15th – Friday 18th will be able to receive a meal or can bring a packed lunch to school. Those pupils in receipt of free school meals will be provided with a meal.

Pupils entitled to free school meals who are accessing their learning from home will be provided with a BACS payment as has happened previously.

This information, for some of our parents may raise some questions especially for the parents who are key workers. We will be using the same definition of 'key worker' as was used in the first lockdown period. That is where one or both parents are employed in:

- **Health and social care sectors.**
- **Education and childcare sector staff, including social workers.**

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

'Motivating, Engaging, Learning, Inspiring, Nurturing'

- **Key public services sector**, ie 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 and TTP co-ordination.
- **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.

If you fall outside this criteria, we will not be able to receive your children. A text message will be sent out with a link to a form to request places for key worker children. Only fill it in if one of your child's parents is a key worker.

Our school will also be open to our most vulnerable learners and we will contact you personally on this if your child is going to be invited to attend. Key worker and invited children will be supervised by the teachers and teaching assistants from the school within their classrooms in each site so they should attend in uniform, use the same entrance and exit and keep their usual school times for their class. The Breakfast Club and end of school times will be the same for each pupil as it is now to again reduce the amount of adults who come into contact with each other.

For those pupils who are not attending the Key Worker childcare provision, the work will be set, as it was back in the Spring and Summer, through the Hwb platform while also making use of the ActiveLearn, Oxford Reading Buddy and Mathletics systems. In the case of our youngest pupils from Nursery and Reception, the work will be available on the school website pages for your child's class.

For more information on the distance learning as well as help guides for parents and pupils, please visit the dedicated webpage of our website called 'Distance Learning' on www.npted.org/melinprimary.

Please note that we have brought our Christmas Dinner forward to Monday on both sites and children can wear their own clothes to school on Monday.

I appreciate that this is short notice, however the decision has been made today by the Authority. We will keep you updated with any further information.

Yours sincerely,

T. Richards
Headteacher

