

Please ask for:

Direct Line:

E-Mail:

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Date:

18 December 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

I am writing to you in relation to the re-opening arrangements for schools in January 2021. Unfortunately, the current situation with the increasing transmission of Covid-19 across Wales makes it very difficult for us to predict the impact it will have on staffing levels in our schools following the Christmas break.

Our priority is to minimise disruption to our children and young people's education as much as possible. However, we recognise that schools will need to assess their staffing levels at the beginning of the new term and as a result some flexibility will be required depending on local circumstances.

As a result, all schools in Swansea will be closed to pupils on 4th and 5th January. This will allow school to assess levels of staff availability, to review all risk assessments and to consider any further requirements in relation to the planning of the spring term. Your school will contact you to confirm arrangements from 6th January onwards but it is expected that most schools will be able to welcome all pupils back by 11th January if circumstances allow.

It may be that only a few classes can return, and some pupils will receive their education remotely. Onsite support will be available for children of critical workers and vulnerable learners; however, as before this service must only be used where all other options have been exhausted. This is to protect the wellbeing of pupils and staff in the schools. Please contact your school for further information.

I hope this information provides you with some clarity on the return to school, however, your school will be able to give you further information at the start of January. I know this term has not been easy and I would like to thank you for your continued co-operation and support. It is vital we do all we can to try and reduce the spread of the virus, and we must continue to follow the guidance to protect both ourselves and others. I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Regards



Helen Morgan-Rees
Interim Director of Education