

*Please ask for:*

*Direct Line:*

*E-Mail:*

*Our Ref:*

*Your Ref:*

*Date:*

23 June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of the academic year, I write to thank you for supporting your child's education. Our schools have continued to educate in another challenging year.

I can confirm that the Welsh Government advice on wearing face coverings in schools remains the same until the end of term on 16 July. The control measures in schools for Covid-19 and its variants are the same as usual.

We know that we are expecting another phase of increased cases in the community and that vaccinations are still needed to prevent any strain on hospitals and vulnerable people.

In Swansea, we are starting to see more pupils having to self-isolate again. In secondary schools, this can mean whole year groups missing out on attending our schools. We still need your support to keep learning going in schools between now and the end of term.

We would like to highlight the following key points:

- Each school is still operating with risk assessments as they have been for the last year. The control measures in schools have not been lifted or relaxed. Please respect the school rules as they will be different to those for the general public.
- If your child is unwell and has any of the main symptoms (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste), they should stay at home and arrange a Covid-19 test.
- The Local Health Board is also making testing available for individuals who are experiencing a wider range of symptoms such as fatigue, myalgia (muscle ache or pain), a sore throat, a headache, a runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhoea. Individuals are asked to consider taking a test if they are experiencing any of these wider symptoms and they are new, persistent and/or unusual symptoms for them.

- Individuals who take a test because of these other wider symptoms are not legally required to isolate while they await their test result. However, the Local Health Board is encouraging the individual concerned to self-isolate while they await their test result, and children and adults with diarrhoea and/or vomiting should remain away from their school or setting until they are symptom free for 48 hours even if their COVID-19 test is negative.
- In addition - unless they develop one of the three main symptoms - the individual's household does not have to self-isolate. If individuals then receive a positive COVID-19 result, they and their household must then isolate.
- All children are encouraged to wash their hands regularly with soap and water throughout the day/session. Hand sanitiser is available in schools and should be used.
- Learners entitled to free school meals will receive fortnightly payments/food parcels throughout the school summer holidays (this includes Years 11 and 13).

During this academic year, the joint effort of every member of staff in our schools has been amazing.

We will continue to work with our schools to ensure that you and your children get the support that you need when we return to school in September.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Helen Morgan-Rees  
Director of Education