

18.06.2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are all well and helping each other to get through these difficult times. You will know by now that schools are due to re-open on June 29th.

Schools have been asked to:

- provide childcare for children of key workers and for those most vulnerable pupils (continuing to operate as Hubs);
- continue to support pupils who do not attend schools through distance learning;
- *“Check in, catch up and prepare”* with all pupils who attend, with no more than a maximum of a third of pupils on site at any one time;
- focus on well-being and to support pupils in whatever way necessary. This is an opportunity to re-engage those who might have become unmotivated or who have stalled in their learning, as well as to re-assure for September; and
- provide as safe an environment as possible in regard to social distancing and hygiene.

The LA are supporting schools by assisting with risk assessments and changes to the school sites, so that they can operate as safely as possible. We are also offering advice to headteachers in regard to their plans.

All schools are different and headteachers will be in contact with you with details of when your children will be able to attend, should you want them to.

Nursery and rising 3s are not expected to be included in the check in, catch up and prepare sessions. However, it is up to individual schools if they have capacity to offer a session and they will communicate with you to clarify position as soon as possible.

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What we do know is that when your children attend, it will be a very different experience from what they remember. There will be different systems and a different emphasis on social distancing and hygiene. School staff will be maximising the sessions with your children so that they can help them to manage anxieties and support them in organising their learning for next term. Headteachers are having to plan carefully within limited capacity to ensure a fair offer to all children, so please wait for contact to know when your child is expected to attend.

We can confirm that catering services will be suspended and that children will be asked to bring in their own packed lunch. Children in receipt of free school meals will receive sandwich packs as part of their regular meal delivery.

We will now be focussing on transport arrangements for those eligible but, wherever possible, it will be safer if you could do this yourselves for the moment.

I know that you will have many questions, and that your headteacher will want to put your minds at rest.

I will be writing to you again before school starts to outline some of the approaches we have taken. Please be reassured by the fact that our childcare hubs have run for 12 weeks from 11 different centres, and have an excellent safety record. Staff and children attending have been able to enjoy doing activities together and forming new friendships.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K Cole', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Keri Cole

Chief Education Officer, Caerphilly County Borough Council