

Dear parent/carer

### **Re-starting schools - Coronavirus (Covid-19)**

While the situation regarding Coronavirus (Covid-19) is changing quickly, please be assured that Bridgend County Borough Council is continuing to work closely with schools, Public Health Wales and Welsh Government in order to implement any necessary measures to protect pupils and staff from the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19) in schools.

To ensure the safe operation of schools, we are following national guidance and have put in place a range of control measures to prevent the spread of the virus including:

- promotion of handwashing and good hygiene practices throughout the day;
- employing social distancing measures as far as practicable within school;
- restricting the numbers of children in classes;
- advising all staff to be vigilant for anyone displaying symptoms;
- staggering breaks and lunchtimes;
- minimising the sharing of objects/equipment;
- discouraging personal belongings being brought into school;
- minimising any activities involving contact;
- maintaining supervision within classes;
- undertaking increased cleaning activities including more frequent cleaning of high-use and touch areas throughout the day;
- provision of hand sanitiser to be used in addition to hand washing; and
- arrangements if anyone at the school displays symptoms.

To support the actions taken within the school, your role as parents/carers is critical. In this respect, I would ask that you observe all national guidance available in relation to the symptoms of Coronavirus (Covid-19) (including, wherever possible, staying at home and social distancing). This information has been publicised widely and is freely available at the Welsh Government, NHS, and Public Health Wales websites.

I would ask you to be particularly vigilant in identifying any symptoms in your child prior to bringing them to school. NHS advice identifies that the symptoms of Coronavirus (Covid-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual); and/or
- a loss of smell and taste.

Should your child, or anyone in your household, display these symptoms then you are advised to follow national guidance in relation to staying at home and social distancing, and not bring your child to school.

In addition to the above, and to support the arrangements already in place, I would encourage you to advise your child to wash their hands:

- before leaving home;
- on arrival at school;
- after using the toilet;
- after breaks and physical activities;
- before eating any food, including snacks;
- before leaving school; and
- on returning home from school.

Finally, I would also ask that when delivering or picking your child up from school, you observe all social distancing recommendations and:

- do not attend school if you or your child are displaying any symptoms of Coronavirus (Covid-19);
- remain at least two metres apart from others at all times; and
- do not congregate in groups on arriving or when picking your child up from school.

Please be assured that the local authority is taking all possible steps to respond to this situation and your assistance in preventing the spread of infection, is appreciated.

In conclusion, thank you again for everything you are doing. Your support at this difficult time is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

*L. I. Harvey*

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