

Date · Dyddiad 11.12.2020
Your ref · Eich cyfeimod
My ref · Fy nghyfeirnod End of Term arrangements
Telephone · Ffôn 01437 775350
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Pembrokeshire County Council Cyngor Sir Penfro

IAN WESTLEY, M.A. B.Eng.(Hons), C.Eng., M.I.Mech.E., M.C.I.B.S.E.
Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

STEVEN RICHARDS-DOWNES
Director of Education
Cyfarwyddwr Addysg

Pembrokeshire County Council,
County Hall, HAVERFORDWEST,
Pembrokeshire, SA61 1TP

Cyngor Sir Penfro,
Neuadd y Sir, HWLFFORDD,
Sir Benfro, SA61 1TP

Telephone / Ffôn 01437 764551

Please ask for
Os gwelwch yn dda gofynnwch am

Steven Richards-Downes

Letter from the Director of Education to all Parents and Carers of children who attend Pembrokeshire Schools

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you will be aware, numbers of Coronavirus cases are increasing rapidly across Wales, including in Pembrokeshire.

Following advice received by the Chief Medical Officer secondary schools have been directed by the Minister to move to distance learning activities from Monday 14th December onwards. This means that the last day on site for secondary school learners will be Friday 11th December.

The advice of the Chief Medical Officer is also that social contact should be kept to a minimum in order that our learners remain safe and well.

Similarly Primary Schools are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain staffing levels as more staff and their families are identified as contacts or experience symptoms and have to organise tests. Schools have limited staffing options due of the need to separate contact groups to prevent the spread of the virus. We are concerned that this situation will worsen in the coming week.

We have taken the decision that primary schools should also move to a distance learning approach from Tuesday 15th December. This means that the last day on school sites for primary learners will be Monday 14th of December.

However, schools will be able to offer childcare to the children of critical workers until Wednesday 16th December, and for those in the very greatest need up to Friday 18th December. Households are now able to extend to one other household, which makes grandparents and other family members an option that should be explored to the full.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English, and will respond within a maximum of 15 working days. We will respond in the language in which the correspondence is received (unless you ask us to do otherwise). / Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb cyn pen 15 diwrnod gwaith fan bellaf. Byddwn yn ymateb yn yr un iaith â'r ohebiaeth a dderbyniwyd (oni bai eich bod yn gofyn i ni wneud yn wahanol).

For a copy in large print, easy-read, Braille, audio, or an alternative language, please contact Pembrokeshire County Council on the number above. / Os am gopi mewn print mawr, fformat hawdd ei ddarllen, Braille, sain neu mewn iaith arall, cysylltwch â Chyngor Sir Penfro ar y rhif uchod.

Parents requiring support with childcare should contact their child's school. In addition, as we have done throughout the pandemic, we will continue to provide support for our vulnerable learners and schools will make appropriate contact with families during the last week of this term in order to facilitate this. If your child is eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), you will receive a BACS payment.

On the 17th of December all schools will be reviewing their risk assessments and ensuring that any changes necessary are made prior to schools returning in January. This will include reviewing contact groups, arrangements for staggered starts and ensuring that our schools continue to be safe environments for our learners. Schools will inform you of any revised arrangements in due course.

On the 18th of December, schools will be planning for the start of the Spring Term 2021. This means that staff will be planning for a range of scenarios which could include face to face teaching and preparing for a range of distance learning options.

Schools will continue to support the Test Trace & Protect system until the 18th of December after which time if your child has been in a setting and has developed symptoms you should email Education.coronavirus@pembrokeshire.gov.uk.

If your child, or any member of your household has Covid-19 symptoms during the holiday period please continue to request a test by phoning 119 or using the online portal <https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-covid-19-test>.

If your child has a positive Covid test result over the holiday period please e mail your child's name, year group and school to education.coronavirus@pembrokeshire.gov.uk **Please note that the self-isolation period is now 10 days.**

Pupils in our schools have been extremely responsible in their response to the challenges faced during this term, and we are very proud of them. I would like to thank you as parents/carers for your co-operation and all our staff for their dedication this term.

Yours sincerely,



Steven Richards-Downes
Director of Education