

Date: 05/03/21

Dear parent / carer

We are writing to update you on the latest Welsh Government announcement that more pupils will have opportunity to return to schools before Easter. The plans will be subject to the regular three-week review of coronavirus regulations by the Welsh Government on Friday, March 12.

Primary pupils aged 3-7 have been able to return to their classrooms since Monday, February 22; this was been carried out in a phased and flexible way which has been very successful.

From March 15, there will be a flexible return with all primary pupils in from March 17<sup>th</sup>. Your child's school will contact you shortly to provide further details of the return plan.

In secondary schools Welsh Government state that from the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, that learners in Years 11 and 13 should be prioritised. However, there will also be flexibility for schools to bring in learners in Years 10 and 12.

Education Minister, Kirsty Williams, has also confirmed that schools would be given the opportunity to welcome back learners in Years 7, 8 and 9 ahead of the Easter break. Whilst this would not be a full return to school for Years 7, 8 and 9, the aim is to give learners the opportunity to check in with teachers, with a focus on support for wellbeing, and readiness for a full return to school after the Easter holidays.

Each secondary school is making its own plans in line with Welsh Government guidance and we support those plans which will keep every pupil safe and engaged with education from March 15<sup>th</sup> onwards.

Pupils will continue with remote learning when working from home until after the Easter holidays. However, please note distance learning will be suspended on the days when pupils are attending school.

Schools will continue to provide on-site provision for vulnerable children and the children of key workers and offer online wellbeing support.

Please be assured that the safety of both pupils and staff is our main priority, and we will be reviewing the health and safety measures we have in place.

**Gareth Morgans, BAdd/BEd; MGw/MSc**

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Mae croeso i chi gysylltu â mi yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg

You are welcome to contact me in Welsh or English

Welsh Government has also confirmed that twice-weekly lateral flow testing will be extended to older learners from Year 10 upwards, as well as education staff. We will provide more information on this, as well as further updates on the return to school including the plans for school meals and transport, as soon as we are able to.

In the meantime, please keep up the excellent work that you are doing at home, we know it isn't easy, but we would like to thank you for all your support and co-operation.

Please remember Wales is still in the highest level of restrictions and we must 'stay at home'. It is extremely important that we all continue to follow the guidance around hand-washing, social distancing and face coverings. We cannot reiterate how important this is to reduce transmission within our communities.

If you or your child or anyone else living in your household has any of the Covid-19 symptoms, you must immediately self-isolate and get tested. It is also important that you inform your school if your child tests positive.

For all the latest information on schools including a comprehensive list of FAQs please visit our website [carmarthenshire.gov.wales/education](http://carmarthenshire.gov.wales/education) and follow @CarmsCouncil on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Thank you once again for your continued support, together we can keep our schools and communities safe.

Yours faithfully

Yn gywir



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