

Welsh Government's announcement:-

Following this announcement, in regard to the arrangements for the new term in January, 2021, I am writing to confirm the approach for schools in Caerphilly CBC.

This decision has been based upon the increasing number of staff shortages due to positive cases and self-isolation together with the concern that these numbers are, of course, unpredictable for the first week of term. All risk assessments will have to be reviewed.

Primary schools, Trinity Fields, The Learning Centre and EOTAS settings

Monday 4th January and Tuesday, 5th January will be distance learning days for all schools, whilst staffing levels are confirmed. If a school has booked an inset day then the 5th and 6th are used for distance learning days. Individual schools will communicate specific arrangements.

Following these distance learning days, face to face provision will be available for eligible key worker childcare and vulnerable pupils, and schools will contact other groups/classes of pupils to begin their learning on site.

Pupils not on site will continue to have distance learning provision.

All pupils will be back in school for face to face learning by Monday, 18th January, 2021, at the latest, with the exception of classes closed due to self isolation or staff shortages.

Secondary Schools

Monday 4th January and Tuesday, 5th January will be distance learning days for all schools, whilst staffing levels are confirmed. If a school has booked an inset day, then the 5th and 6th will also be distance learning days.

Following these distance learning days, face to face provision will be available for eligible key worker childcare and vulnerable pupils, and schools will contact other year groups of pupils to begin their learning on site, with priority given to years 11, 12 and 13.

All pupils will be back in school for face to face learning by Monday, 18th January, 2021, at the latest, with the exception of classes closed due to self isolation or staff shortages.

Other points to note

- 🏠 Pupils entitled to free school meals will continue to receive deliveries as up to now.
- 🏠 Pupils having provision on site will be required to bring a packed lunch. 🏠 The Welsh Government list of key workers is extensive, so priority for applications will be given to those from frontline emergency services, social care and education staff in the first instance, in line with our current context in Caerphilly.

We are currently reviewing eligibility of previous childcare applications so that parents/carers can be informed of the outcome next week. Please contact the educationwelfare@caerphilly.gov.uk mailbox to apply if:

- 🏠 your circumstances have changed since March, 2020, e.g. school, occupation, etc., or
- 🏠 it is a new application