

Westwood Communication regarding School reopening in January 2021

To our Dear Westwood Family,

Sadly, we have been informed from Welsh Government and the letter from Flintshire County Council that we will not be reopening the school doors to the large majority of pupils in the first week of the spring term. This is due to the high rise in positive cases locally, nationally and the likelihood of another rise of Covid 19 positive cases after the Christmas break. You will have no doubt seen the press releases and news on social media.

From Monday 4th January 2021, there will be no face to face teaching in any of the schools in Wales and pupils will move to online, blended learning. We need your support to keep your child safe and decrease the risk of Covid 19 within our schools and within our community. By giving you this information as swiftly as we possible will hopefully help you to organise childcare for after the Christmas holiday.

However, we have been requested for school to be open from Wednesday 6th January strictly for critical key workers only who need childcare provision for their child whilst they work and cannot be safely cared for at home - see the list accompanying this letter or see the link below:

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-critical-key-workers-test-eligibility>

To undertake the critical key worker offer, we will now need to identify parents who are critical key workers who will need this facility.

Please complete the form in the link below by Monday 4th January @ 12pm to confirm you are a critical key worker and require a place from Wednesday 6th January.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ug4_TzS3ZEGUCRtgHRR5kzZU9rhSGx5GhLsKZOyoYR1UOExBWUdQMFQoRTBLMDZIVoc1WkRGQzQ2Ti4u

Summary

- **All children (Nursery to Year 6) should remain safely at home from Monday 4th January to Friday 8th January and undertake their online, blended learning. Details will follow to support you with this.**
- School can reopen on Wednesday 6th January for children of **critical key workers only**.
- Vulnerable pupils should also be cared for safely at home.
- Direct payments for Free School Meals will be arranged to continue for the WC 4th January 2021.
- Calls/Emails will be undertaken to check on our families and offer support with learning and pastoral care.
- Breakfast club will operate from 8am on **Wednesday 6th January for critical key workers only**. Book through the School Gateway.
- Staggered start times and end times will continue for the spring term – **critical key worker provision** from 6th January.
- **After School Club will operate for critical key workers from 2.30pm until 5.30pm. This must be booked directly through them for key workers from Wednesday 6th January.**

There will be a review of Covid positive cases around the 6th January, and if still they remain high, we may be asked to extend the online learning and critical key worker provision for a further week (WC 11th January) to provide that additional fire break for the majority of pupils. We are expecting and hopeful of all pupils to return by Monday 18th January.

We understand how disappointed you may feel at reading this and we also appreciate that school has been a supportive, safe haven for your child this term. We are hopeful that the cases will decrease and normality for us all isn't far away. **If you wish to discuss this or require any support for your family, please email the office. We will do our best to help you.**

Diolch. Stay Safe!

Mrs Williams & Team Westwood ☺