



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

Dyddiad/ Date 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
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Eich cyf/ Your ref  
Ein cyf/ Our ref AE/jg

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we enter the second half of the Autumn Term and especially the winter months, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and understanding in such anxious times.

I would also like to share some key messages with you.

The control measures utilised by schools have been effective in ensuring that pupils can return to their learning in Covid secure environments. There is very little evidence of forward transmission of the virus within school settings.

Senior leaders have developed a robust relationship with our Test, Trace and Protect (TTP) service, underpinned by a well understood protocol that allows schools to make early and precautionary decisions on self-isolation in order to protect pupils and staff. We appreciate that whilst such decisions can be disruptive to family life, they are crucial in controlling the virus' transmission. We fully support head teachers in this matter.

Pupil attendance rates are good and head teachers and other senior leaders report extremely positive engagement with learning, there is clear respect for new procedures and a strong commitment to normalising pupils' school experience. High levels of confidence are reported in schools' risk assessments and management.

You will be aware that Covid cases continue to rise within the local authority. It is with this in mind that we request your continued cooperation in supporting our actions to minimise the impact of the virus and to reduce its spread.

It is important that advice on self-isolation is heeded and that we secure your cooperation with track and trace.

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Parents are reminded that a Covid test should be sought where individuals have one of the following symptoms

- a new continuous cough
- fever or high temperature
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

We are aware that winter traditionally brings in its wake a number of non-Covid type illnesses and we would advise that children are kept home if they suffer from nausea, sore throats and show winter flu type symptoms and only return once they are better.

If their illness causes concern then you should seek medical advice as you normally would. If a child has mild cold-like symptoms they should continue to go to school, if fit to do so.

We would emphasise strongly that hand washing, surface cleaning and social distancing remain the most effective and beneficial ways of protecting yourself, your family, your friends and your community.

We request that parents / carers avoid congregating around school settings and to observe the school's advice regarding children's dropping off and picking up arrangements. Furthermore, we expect parents / carers and other visitors to wear face coverings on the school site (whether entering the building or otherwise), including at drop-off and pick-up times.

Christmas remains an important part of a school's calendar and we wish to make every effort to ensure that it is celebrated in as normal a way as possible. We all have a responsibility to take actions now that should impact positively on children and young people's experiences over the coming months.

Yours sincerely,



*Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning,*

*Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council*