

Your re/Eich cyf:

Our ref/Ein cyf: DMc/KJH

Date/Dyddiad: 8 March 2021

Please contact/Cysyllter â

Direct line/Llinell ffôn:

Direct fax/Llinell ffacs:

Email/Ebost:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Return to School for Primary and Some Secondary Learners from March 15th

As schools get ready to welcome back all pupils in primary and some pupils in secondary schools, we would like to update you on some of the changes in our schools.

All primary school children will return to school on Monday 15th March.

Each secondary school will be writing to their families to outline which of their pupils will be returning from the 15th.

All year 11 and 13 learners will return although some schools will be asking other year groups to return also with all other learners having the opportunity to “check in”. Your school will be in touch to confirm these details shortly. Please remember that all secondary age pupils will need to wear a face covering in school, unless they are exempt for medical reasons.

Additionally over the next week, as schools get ready to welcome more pupils back, staff will also be working hard to keep face to face learning in place for vulnerable learner and keyworker children and keeping support in place for remote learning while updating risk assessments to ensure the safe return of more children. It is likely that many schools will need to change their remote learning offer later this week and this may mean you will notice some differences in the availability of staff online for instance.

All school transport will be running as per normal arrangements from March 15th.

THIS DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE IN LARGER PRINT AND BRAILLE UPON REQUEST

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English.

Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and will not lead to delay.

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.

Cewch ateb Cymraeg i bob gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd yn arwain at oedi.

Civic Centre, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6YB Tel 01495 762200
Y Ganolfan Ddinesig, Pont-y-pŵl, Torfaen, NP4 6YB Ffôn 01495 762200

www.torfaen.gov.uk

Testing of staff in all schools

You may have heard in the media about Lateral Flow Test (LFT), and how these are being used in schools to identify asymptomatic cases / where a person doesn't yet have any symptoms of COVID-19. As we are offering regular, twice weekly LFT testing to all of our school staff, we feel that it is important to explain in a little detail how the process will work in Torfaen's schools.

As we want to minimise any further disruption within our classrooms, all staff that are happy to participate in LFT testing will be provided with the necessary equipment so they can self-test at home. Tests will be performed by staff members at home on a Sunday evening (at around 7pm), and then later in the week on a Wednesday evening (at around 6pm). This regime has been proposed to provide minimum disruption to school staff and pupils.

If the test indicates a positive result, the headteacher will be informed, and the staff member will arrange for a further test (PCR) to be conducted at a test centre, to confirm the result. By completing a test on a Sunday at 7pm, we will not have to isolate any class bubbles if the test indicates a positive result.

If a LFT test indicates a positive result on a Wednesday evening, then we will need to isolate all of the pupils and staff identified as close contacts, and so you may receive a communication advising you that your child is required to isolate following a positive LFT result. All close contacts will then need to remain in isolation until the results of the follow-up PCR test are available:

- A positive follow-up test result will require all close contacts identified to remain in isolation for a full 10 days. Your child's school will be in touch to update you and advise of the isolation dates applicable.
- Negative follow-up test result will allow us to advise you that your child can return to school as normal.

Testing of secondary school pupils - only in Years 10 to 13

The Minister for Education and the Minister for Health and Social Services announced on 22 February that the offer of regular, twice weekly, Lateral Flow Tests will now be extended to include all learners in **years 10-13** and further education.

These tests will be for use at home, twice weekly and are only to be used for learners who don't have any symptoms. Each of our schools will be writing to parents shortly to explain the exact arrangements in their school but in all cases learners will collect their test kits from their school and will test themselves at home. Your child's school will give you details of how to report results as we need to know which results are negative as well as the positive ones.

THIS DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE IN LARGER PRINT AND BRAILLE UPON REQUEST

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English.
Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and will not lead to delay.
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.
Cewch ateb Cymraeg i bob gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd yn arwain at oedi.

Civic Centre, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6YB Tel 01495 762200
Y Ganolfan Ddinesig, Pont-y-pŵl, Torfaen, NP4 6YB Ffôn 01495 762200

www.torfaen.gov.uk

More information on the specific detail of the processes are currently being discussed and finalised and will be shared by your school later this week.

Anyone who tests positive using a Lateral Flow Test must not attend a school or setting. They and everyone they live with must self-isolate immediately according to the [self-isolation guidance](#), whilst they undertake the following actions:

- [report the test result online.](#)
- book a follow up PCR test through the [online booking portal.](#)
- notify their school or setting of the result.

They will be contacted by our local contact tracing team to identify contacts who will need to self-isolate – they must follow any advice given by the contact tracing team.

Further guidance on LFT testing can be found here:
<https://gov.wales/lateral-flow-testing-people-without-symptoms>

While it is great to see more children and young people return to school, we are still living in a pandemic and we would like to remind everyone of the need remain vigilant, follow social distancing requirements and always wear a mask when dropping off or picking up from a school site.

Your support in this really helps schools keep your children and our staff safe.

Yours faithfully



Richard Clark
Deputy Leader, Executive Member
for Education



Dermot McChrystal,
Chief Education Officer,
Lead Director for Children and Young People

THIS DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE IN LARGER PRINT AND BRAILLE UPON REQUEST

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English.
Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and will not lead to delay.
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.
Cewch ateb Cymraeg i bob gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd yn arwain at oedi.

Civic Centre, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6YB Tel 01495 762200
Y Ganolfan Ddinesig, Pont-y-pŵl, Torfaen, NP4 6YB Ffôn 01495 762200
www.torfaen.gov.uk