

Parentmail Update: 04.01.22

Dear Parent/Carer

We would like to wish all families a Happy New Year.

Please see below updated information regarding school opening and Covid-19 mitigation measures.

School Opening

As we informed you on 16 December 2021, Welsh Government designated the first 2 days of the spring term as "planning days". This means that unless you are informed otherwise, all pupils will return to school for face to face teaching on **Thursday 6 January 2022**.

However, the reason for the planning days was to allow schools to ascertain staffing levels, review and update relevant risk assessments and to work on teaching and learning contingency plans if the school was forced to partially or fully close as a result of the impact of Covid-19.

As a school, we will do all we can to stay open for all pupils for face to face teaching. However, events may force partial closures at short notice. A partial closure might mean that certain year groups may be asked to stay at home and work online rather than attend school for face to face teaching. This will only be as a last resort.

To enable us to clearly communicate the position to you on a daily basis, the following approach will be used.

Before the start of school on each day before 8.00am you will receive information of the available provision, including for example, whether school meals are available or whether pupils will be required to bring packed lunches to school. Ideally we will try to provide this information in advance during each afternoon ready for the next day. However, this might not always be possible. **Each day will be classified as a red, amber or green day as outlined below.**

Position 1 - Green

School is open for face to face learning for **all** pupils. We have sufficient staff to provide cover to deliver lessons in school. We are able to utilise staff where appropriate and we are not currently experiencing any major issues covering absence or employing additional supply teachers

Position 2 - Amber - a hybrid approach

School is partially open for face to face provision for some or most pupils. All other pupils receive online and remote provision at home.

We are able to cover most/many areas of work, with some disruption to classes. The school is currently experiencing some difficulty in recruiting supply staff to provide

the cover needed. Some classes/ year groups have no teacher or supply teacher to deliver face to face learning.

If an amber position is reached, you will be informed which year group/s will be asked to stay at home and receive remote learning. However, pupils who are sitting final external exams in 2022 will be prioritised for face to face provision. Only as a last resort and the school entering a Red position will these pupils be required to stay at home.

Position 3 - Red

School on-site provision for pupils is very limited as we are experiencing severe disruption. School is open for face to face access for vulnerable learners only. Remote online provision for all or most other learners takes place at home. We are experiencing severe disruption to classes across the school, and have had to temporarily move many classes/year groups to remote learning due to staff absences. We are having difficulties in employing supply cover for key areas and are not able to recruit the necessary cover.

We sincerely hope that each day will be classified as **Green** which means that all pupils will attend school in person.

Covid- 19 Self - Isolation Information

Welsh Government self isolation requirements have been updated. Please follow the link below to access full details.

<https://gov.wales/self-isolation>

In summary, any pupil who has symptoms of Covid-19 must not attend school. They must self-isolate and take a PCR test as soon as possible. The pupil should continue to self-isolate until the test result is received. If the result is negative the pupil can return to school. If the result is positive the pupil can leave isolation after 7 full days. The Welsh Government guidance states "You can leave isolation after 7 full days (on day 8 of your self-isolation period). You should take a lateral flow test (LFT) on day 6 of your isolation period and another LFT 24 hours later. This is to check if you remain infectious and could pass COVID-19 on to others".

The guidance goes on to state that "If either of the LFTs taken on day 6 or day 7 is positive, you should remain in self-isolation until 2 negative LFTs or day 10 whichever is sooner".

Please find attached a summary flow chart titled " You are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19" .

Mitigation measures

Most of the mitigation measures which were in force to reduce the spread of Covid-19 before the holidays will remain in place until further notice. A reminder of the main mitigation measures with some recent updates are as follows.

Face coverings

From Monday 6 December all pupils have been required to wear a face covering when inside school buildings, including in classrooms during lessons.

Before the Christmas holidays we distributed in excess of 1200 disposable and reusable face coverings to pupils. This means that our stock of face coverings is rapidly dwindling. We would be grateful if all pupils would now ensure that they bring in a face covering from home. The remaining stock in school will be used to assist pupils who are in genuine need.

We would encourage face coverings to be washable and reusable rather than disposable in nature. This will help to address environmental sustainability and reduce potential littering problems.

Face coverings are still required for pupils if they are travelling on school transport to and from school.

Should there be a specific medical reason as to why your child cannot wear a face covering, we would be grateful if you could contact the school to enable us to discuss the situation.

Although we have changed our procedures as a result of Welsh Government decisions, we have also been emphasising to pupils that the wearing of face coverings should be viewed as an act of courtesy which can protect their own health and that of other people.

Ventilation and colder weather

As part of the school's approach to reducing the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission, we have ensured that classrooms are as well ventilated as possible. This means that windows are open, fully or partially, to obtain the levels of fresh air required. As the colder weather is now with us, we have to be mindful of pupils' thermal comfort if windows are open. Therefore pupils are allowed to wear additional layers if conditions require it. However, it is important to note that the school jumper is the main compulsory item of clothing if pupils are cold. Only if the jumper is insufficient should pupils wear additional layers.

Lateral Flow Testing

Welsh Government expects that all pupils of secondary age should test three times a week before entering school using lateral flow devices (LFDs) (on Monday, Wednesday and Friday). Pupils can obtain LFDs should they wish from school.

School sporting fixtures

Parents/ carers will not be able to watch fixtures pitch-side or court side. If you are collecting your child after a fixture we would ask that you wait in your car for your child to come to you to be collected once fixtures have been completed.

Visits to school by parents/ carers

Please note that parental visits to school will be strictly by invitation only, or in response to a request from the school to attend urgently for a specific reason. We would ask that pupils check that they have all their equipment with them each day to avoid the likelihood that they forget something which then needs to be brought later to school.

Regards
Cowbridge Comprehensive School Senior leadership Team.

Attachments

[Flow Chart You are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID19](#)