



June 15th 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

PHASED RETURN TO SCHOOL

We hope you are all well.

Following the publication of the Welsh Government's operational and learner guidance last week, Newport schools are simultaneously communicating their re-opening arrangements for pupils today.

The Bassaleg cluster has been working very closely together during lockdown and will continue to do so during the phased re-opening of all our schools.

As such, the following broad arrangements have been agreed as a cluster:

- Every pupil will have the opportunity to return to school once a week (This will be over a 3 week period in primaries - the 4th week will be for nursery children)
- Secondary pupils will be able to attend in their year groups
- Primary pupils will be able to attend in alphabetical groups to enable siblings to attend on the same day
- All pupils will be in groups no larger than 10
- Primary Schools will be closed to all pupils* for 1 day a week for cleaning and to allow distant learning preparation to continue
- We will all be offering a morning only session for all pupils
- All pupils will be able to undertake their distant learning activities in school with teacher support
- Our original plans for Y6 transition this summer have had to change following the WG's announcement. Bassaleg will be making arrangements for Y6 transition during the first few weeks of September.
- Individual arrangements for each school are provided separately to this letter

**Except for keywork childcare pupils. This provision will continue for 4 weeks commencing June 29th as it currently runs. Y7 pupils will be able to access provision at Bassaleg. The usual application process still applies i.e. via NCC website.*

The arrangements that we have made are in line with the Welsh Government guidance and we, as a group of Headteachers, feel that this is safest way for staff and pupils to be able to return to school.



With Newport City Council's guidance, all the appropriate risk assessments have been undertaken to reduce the risk of infection and cross contamination, but please understand, that **the risk has not been completely eliminated.**

If you have been keeping up-to-date with Welsh education news you will know that these 4 weeks are for pupils to be able to *check-in, catch-up and prepare* for the summer and a continued phased return in the Autumn. The choice to send your child to school is yours. The Government have stated there will be no penalty if you choose not to.

School will look very different. The way we undertake our daily routines will be very different. However, what is very much the same are our children and staff. By working together constructively over this difficult period of phased return we can ensure they re-connect, albeit in a different way, with the wellbeing of everyone being our priority.

Your continued patience, understanding and cooperation is very much appreciated.

Kind regards,

Dean Taylor
Headteacher

Bassaleg Cluster Headteachers

Cat Kucia – Jubilee Park
Fiona Rutledge – High Cross/Mount Pleasant
Steve Rayer – Rogerstone

Dean Taylor – Pentrepoeth
Lisa Lewis – Marshfield
Vicky Lambe - Bassaleg