



Pentrepoeth Primary School

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Friday 22nd October 2021

Covid -19 Update for Parents

Dear Parents,

As you are aware, all schools in Newport were recently placed on a **'moderate alert level'** by the Gwent Incident Management Team (IMT). The situation is constantly kept under review. As from the first day after half term, all schools in NCC will move from 'moderate' to **'very high level.'** **This is the highest level within the schools framework.**

IMT statement: -

"Based on the criteria in the Welsh Government Infection Control Framework, the IMT has now set the community level of risk across the ABUHB region at 'very high'. The main factors determining this level of risk for the region were the high community incidence rates, the subsequent pressure on the Test, Trace and Protect Service locally, the impact upon Education, and the pressure in the Health and Social Care system."

"The measures described in the Framework aim to reduce the risk of transmission in schools as appropriate according to the current community level of risk, whilst aiming to maximise face to face teaching and keep any disruption to pupils' education to a minimum."

With this in mind, the school's already stringent Risk Assessment will be strengthened to reflect this change in alert level.

- Pupils will remain in their class contact groups at **all times** both inside and whilst playing outside.
- Whilst the Framework **suggests consideration of the pausing of Breakfast Club** provision we will continue with the provision at present. However, the situation will be kept under continued review. There is still a possibility of temporary suspension in the future.
- All pupils continue to have their lunch in the classrooms



We will continue to-

- ✓ Use the one-way systems
- ✓ Ensure staff wear face coverings in shared spaces.
- ✓ Encourage all parents and visitors (unless exempt) to wear face coverings on drop off or collections, with strictly no entry into the school building
- ✓ Limit movement around the school
- ✓ Promote high levels of hand washing
- ✓ Follow instructions and advice from TTP in terms of issuing 'warn and inform' letters.

We encourage the community to-

- ✓ Continue to be vigilant and to act swiftly if they suspect their child has symptoms and to book a PCR test.
- ✓ Ensure your child does not attend school if they are exhibiting any of the three cardinal symptoms
- ✓ Follow instructions and guidance when issued with a warn and inform letter
- ✓ **'Keep in touch'**- contact the office for advice or to report positive cases.

We continue to see an increase in the number of positive cases. The school has faced huge challenges when trying to secure supply cover for classes when there is a teacher or teaching assistant absence. I have never known the situation so bad. As you are probably aware from news reports, this situation is replicated across the country. The school has often had to make last minute changes in order to keep everyone safe.

Obviously, the last option for us is to close classes, however, we would like to make parents aware that this could be a possibility in the future if we are unable to secure adequate and safe supervision for classes. This would be on safety grounds alone.

Despite the challenges we have faced I am constantly cheered by our children who remain resilient, happy and positive in their learning experiences. We are also very thankful for your patience and consideration.

I was hoping that we would be able to start extra-curricular provision in the near future. This now looks unlikely until after Christmas. We will, however, keep that situation under review as we are advised.

I wish you all a safe and happy half term.

Best,

Dean Taylor
Headteacher

