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Dyddiad / Date: 11-12-20	E-bost / E-mail:	EDGMorgans@sirgar.gov.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Last week we wrote to you noting that our schools would remain open until the 18th of December as planned, however, as you will be aware, numbers of Coronavirus cases are increasing rapidly across Wales, including in Carmarthenshire. As noted previously we have been monitoring the issue on a daily basis.

The rising number of cases in the community is having a significant effect on staff and pupils having to self-isolate, leading to major staffing issues within schools as well as putting considerable pressure on the Test Trace Protect teams. We are concerned that this situation will worsen in the coming weeks.

Yesterday the Welsh Government made the decision that all secondary schools across Wales would move to remote learning from Monday the 14th of December.

In Carmarthenshire we have decided that all secondary schools will **move to distance learning** as from Monday 14th December until the end of term, on Friday 18th December. This will mean that pupils will not be on school premises during that period and distance learning activities will be provided for them by their teachers.

We all want to enjoy time with family members over Christmas, and providing distance learning from the 14th December onwards will give a period of at least 10 clear days before Christmas Day, in the possible event of learners or family members needing to self-isolate. This is in line with Welsh Government's Technical Advice Cell statement issued on December 2nd.

Your school will move to remote learning for the last few days of this term therefore-

- If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, you will receive a payment to assist you during the time they will be at home. We will process this as soon as we can.
- Our schools will also ensure that there is support in place for our most vulnerable learners.

It is vitally important that pupils remain at home next week carrying out the work set by their teachers. This will make sure pupils keep up with their work and also to prevent any further transmission of the virus in the community.

Gareth Morgans, BAdd/BEed; MGw/MSc

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If your child, or any member of your household has Covid-19 symptoms during the holiday period please request a test by phoning 119 or using the online portal <https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-covid-19-test>.

If your child has a positive Covid test result please contact **Delta Wellbeing** (ttp@deltawellbeing.org.uk or 0300 3332222) providing your child's name, year group and school. Please note all self-isolation periods have now changed to 10 days and not 14.

Our learners and staff at all our schools have been extremely responsible in their response to the challenges faced during this term, and we are very proud of them. We would like at the end of term to thank you as parents/carers for your co-operation and all the staff of our schools for their dedication.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Glynog Davies

Executive Board Member for Education

Gareth Morgans

Director of Education and Children's Services

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