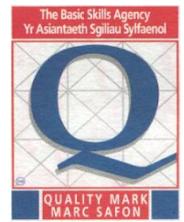


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Monday 8th June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope that you and the family are staying well. It has been really encouraging to see how well so many of our children have been able to engage with the home / school learning this term. Many thanks for the support that you are providing in these challenging and worrying times.

Last week the Welsh Government announced their plans for the phased return of schools from Monday 29th June. I know that within our Cleddau Reach school community this message would have been greeted with both hope that we might be returning gradually to a more normal pattern of life but also concerns about the impact of this return on the health of children, their families and the staff working with them.

Over the next three weeks the staff and members of the school governing body will be working alongside other staff within Pembrokeshire County Council to ensure that Cleddau Reach is prepared for this phased return. Our main priority will be to ensure that the school building and the new systems we put in place for teaching, learning and well-being are as safe as is possible in the current situation. I am hopeful that this can be achieved especially since all teaching and nearly all support staff have been actively involved during the previous eleven weeks in implementing such systems for vulnerable children and the children of key workers within our Hub school at St Mark's. However, only once this has been achieved will the school governing body and I confirm to you that we will be opening and the exact ways in which these new systems will operate.

Unfortunately, we all know that living with the CV-19 virus presents many challenges and that this is likely to impact on the school experience and other aspects of our lives for many months to come. As the Welsh government announced, the return to schooling in Wales will be phased with only a maximum of one third of learners in school at a time to support effective social distancing. The learning experience across Wales will include a combination of home and school based learning. However, I share the Welsh government's belief that it is important to provide an opportunity this term for children to spend some time in school as long as the systems put in place are as safe as they can be made. This will mean that within small groups the children can have some direct learning support and teaching from their class teacher and also become more familiar with the learning and safety systems which are likely to continue in September.

I will provide further specific information to all our families at the end of next week so that it is possible for you to make an informed decision on whether you wish your child / children to make a phased return to school from the week beginning Monday 29th June.

I send you and your family my very best wishes and hope that the current situation continues to improve to allow a safe return to school later this term.

Yours sincerely,
Nick Groves

