

Your re/Eich cyf:

Our ref/Ein cyf: DMc/TH

Date/Dyddiad: 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Please contact/Cysyllter â

Dermot McChrystal

Direct line/Llinell ffôn:

Direct fax/Llinell ffacs:

Email/Ebost: [dermot.mcchrystal@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:dermot.mcchrystal@torfaen.gov.uk)

Dear Parents/Carers

I thought it would be helpful to share with you the latest information about the phased re-opening of all Torfaen schools.

Welsh Government announced on 3 June 2020 that all children would have the opportunity to 'Check in, Catch up, Prepare for summer and September'. The next phase will start on 29 June 2020 with term extended by a week to 27 July 2020.

For most children this will mean a partial return to school in that four week period. For those children who are shielding on health grounds (or the health of a relative), government advice remains to stay at home so the current remote contact arrangements will need to be maintained for them.

Schools will work very differently, at least for the rest of this summer term. Class sizes will be small and schools will implement social distancing. This means lessons may run differently, break times and lunch times may be staggered, school start and finish times may be different and we will need to change our approach to things like cleaning and transport.

As a council, we acknowledge that not all schools will be able to meet the Welsh Government's ambitions immediately. Capacity in schools will vary and many schools will need to introduce a phased re-integration. This might affect the year groups that can attend and the days available

The council and schools in Torfaen are now looking at the arrangements that need to be put in place to achieve the re-opening, an important part of which is managing the risks to keep everybody safe.

We know that parents will have lots of questions and we, and our schools, will share further details in due course. To allow us to do that at pace please can we ask that you do not contact schools directly at this stage.

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We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English.

Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and will not lead to delay.

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*Cewch ateb Cymraeg i bob gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd yn arwain at oedi.*

Civic Centre, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6YB Tel 01495 762200  
Y Ganolfan Ddinesig, Pont-y-pŵl, Torfaen, NP4 6YB Ffôn 01495 762200

[www.torfaen.gov.uk](http://www.torfaen.gov.uk)

I will write to you again once we have had further guidance from Welsh Government, at which point we will also provide a question and answer bulletin on the council's website.

Thank you in anticipation of your continued support.

Yours sincerely



**Dermot McChrystal**  
**CHIEF OFFICER, EDUCATION AND LEAD DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**

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