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Dear parents/guardians,

The '**Decision framework for the next phase of education and childcare**' was published on 15th May as a working document to advise on ways of changing how schools and other providers were operating over time to respond to COVID-19.

This reiterated the Education Minister's 5 key principles for the next phase.

- The safety, mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing of learners and staff.
- Continue to contribute to the national effort and strategy to tackle the spread of COVID-19.
- Build the confidence of parents and carers, staff and learners - based on evidence and information - so that they can plan ahead.
- Ability to prioritize learners at key times, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Consistency with the Welsh Government's decision-making framework, implementation of guidance to support measures such as distancing, attendance management and wider safeguards.

On Wednesday, June 3rd, the Education Minister announced a plan to increase school implementation of the school 29th June.

Why has the Minister for Education made this decision now?

"We are creating an opportunity for pupils to Check in, Catch up and Prepare, for September. By doing this now, it will give children vital contact time before the summer holidays, which will bring important social and learning benefits and the achievement gap. This will help prepare learners for the contact time available to them after the summer holidays, and allow schools to test their approaches before the autumn".

In order to continue to support key workers the care provision is given priority over the school opening for more pupils (check in).

There were 69 responses to the questionnaire.

Care provision application for children of key workers = 11

Check in request = 37

Not planning to send the child to school = 32 (and everyone else who didn't respond to the questionnaire).

During this week, your child's teacher will call you to discuss any questions. If the risk is too high for your child's health or for the health of school staff, your child will need to stay home.

Further information and matters for you to consider before requesting a place at the school from 29th June.

- If you choose to keep your child (ren) at home until September before resuming driving them to school, you will not be fined for this.
- All pupils in the school will continue to receive support from their teacher in different ways of distance learning, through Google Classroom, Seesaw, or by telephone if the 'check in' at school is not possible.

General Information

- You will need to choose either the 'care' service (key workers only) or the 'education / check in' service (available to all) for your child (ren).
- If you choose the 'care' service you need to be a key worker. We will expect to receive your work schedule or 'off-duty' rota, so that your child can be at home with you on the days that you're not working.

List of Key Workers

Health and social care e.g. doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, and other frontline health and social care staff;

Education and childcare e.g. nurseries, teaching staff / assistants and social workers;

Blue light services e.g. police, fire, ambulance;

Priority employees in Local and National Government (these are identified by individual organizations); **Food and other necessary goods** e.g. food production, processing, sale and delivery;

Transport e.g. maintaining road and rail travel and freight transport.

- The 'care' pupil 'bubble' group will be cared for by support staff, while education 'bubble' groups / 'check in' classes will be with their teachers. We will not mix the groups / bubbles of pupils due to the risks of cross infection of the virus.

Classroom size capacity

- Following a classroom size risk assessment and based on the 2 meter rule of social distance, there will only be two/three pupils in each class each day with the teacher and support staff for 'education / check-in'. Gwynedd Council says that pupils can attend the school **twice** during the period between 29th June - 24th July, from 9am-2pm in a rota that the school will arrange.
- Classrooms, the hall and the corridors will have been measured for the 2 meter social distance rule.

Medical Information

- If you are a parent or guardian who is shielding yourself / a child or is medically vulnerable you will need to keep your child at home.
- Health workers (nurse) will not return to school at present. If your child has an individual medical plan and is supported by health staff you will need to keep your child at home.
- If your child receives daily medication at school from the nurse, you will need to keep your child at home.

Hygiene and Personal Care Arrangements

- The teacher will check these arrangements when carrying out the individual risk assessment for your child over the phone.
- Temperature checks will be carried out on all staff and pupils on a daily basis.
- When everyone arrives at school they will need to wash their hands or use hand sanitiser.
- The staff will wear a mask and plastic apron to protect your children.
- For those pupils who require personal care, staff will wear full PPE.

- Toilets will be cleaned after each break during the day.
- Staff will disinfect classroom equipment and resources as the day progresses.
- There will be regular hand washing in the classroom and a hand sanitiser will also be available.
- The class will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day.
- The playground equipment will not be used and the sensory rooms and hydro pool will be closed.

Lunch Arrangements

- The lunch hall will not be open and no pupils or staff members will be provided with food.
- Pupils will need to bring a packed lunch to school.
- All empty packaging will have to be returned home with the child and no waste will be taken by the school.
- Staff will be available to help pupils eat, but will wear full PPE.
- Eating will take place in the classroom and pupils will not wander around the building.

Transport Arrangements

- Due to the need to look at social distancing arrangements within transport, it will not be practical for the Education Authority to provide transport during the period before the end of term. We will review the arrangements with the Authority following further government guidance.
- Parents will need to make their own arrangements as it is not possible to adhere to the distance rules by taxi
- If your child is eligible for transport from the Authority, you will be able to claim travel expenses for transporting your child to school yourself.

I do apologise that this letter is so long, however we hope the above information answers your questions. We also have attached a frequently asked questions and answer sheet. You will have the opportunity to speak to the teacher before I confirm any further arrangements. In the meantime, exercise caution and stay safe.

Thanking you for your continued support,