

Dear Parent/Carer

End of Term Arrangements

We are writing to you following Welsh Government's announcement late yesterday about secondary schools moving to distance learning from Monday 13 December until the end of term. This decision was taken in response to advice received yesterday from the Chief Medical Officer.

Having initially planned for both primary and secondary schools across the Vale of Glamorgan to remain open until 18th December, the Council has kept its decision under review in order to respond to the evolving situation should the need arise. Over the past week, there has been a significant and rapid rise in the number of year groups needing to isolate due to contact with positive cases in schools, reflecting the increase in positive cases we are seeing across Wales. Consequently, staffing levels have also been adversely affected due to contact group isolations, positive cases, and childcare requirements, creating a challenging situation for some schools. The safety of our staff, pupils and communities continues to be our priority.

The increasing challenges of the current situation means that the viability of schools remaining open in the coming week is questionable. Following lengthy discussion and consideration of a wide range of factors, the Council has advised its primary schools, nursery schools and special school to move to distance learning on the 17th and 18th December.

Ideally, we would have liked to be in a position to provide more notice of this decision, however, the speed with which circumstances have changed across Wales and in the Vale of Glamorgan has prevented this. We appreciate your understanding of the situation and are grateful for the support you are affording your local school as we continue to manage the situation together.

Thank you for your understanding, patience and resolve as we continue to work towards a brighter 2021.

Kinds regards,

Paula Ham – Director of Learning and Skills