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Dyddiad / Date: 25-03-22 **E-bost / E-mail :** CwestiwnECS@sirgar.gov.uk / QuestionECS@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Dear Parent / Guardian,

I wanted to provide you with a short update following Welsh Government's 3-weekly review of the coronavirus regulations and what that means for our schools.

Welsh Government has confirmed that the current guidance for schools will remain up until the Easter holidays, this means there are no changes to the current arrangements in our schools for the time being.

Unfortunately, we are continuing to see high numbers of cases of COVID-19 in communities in Carmarthenshire and across Wales, and this is continuing to have an impact on our schools.

The current situation is putting extra pressure on our schools who are working hard to ensure face-to-face learning can continue as far as possible, despite staff shortages in some areas, and I would like to thank them for all they are doing.

The Local COVID-19 infection control decision framework for schools sets out arrangements for the delivery of learning in schools and enables us to tailor interventions to reflect local risks and circumstances.

Due to the high number of cases, we continue to operate at a MODERATE level, which is reviewed weekly.

To help us keep our schools safe and reduce the risk of spreading the infection please continue to wear a face covering and maintain distancing as far as possible when dropping off / collecting your child from school.

Face coverings are also still required in secondary schools and for school transport.

It is important we continue to wash our hands regularly and get the vaccine when offered.

Please remember, if your child has any of the three key symptoms, please do not send your child to school and take a test. All PCR testing sites will close on March 31st, after this date people will be advised to take a lateral flow test if they have symptoms.

You should also be aware of other symptoms early on, such as headaches, tiredness and general aches and pains usually associated with the flu. If your child is unwell, we would urge you to please keep them off school until they are better.

These simple steps will help protect us from coronavirus, as well as other common respiratory illnesses.

Gareth Morgans, BAdd/BEd; MGw/MSc

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We know how disruptive the last two years have been for everyone and we want to keep your child in school as much as possible, but we also want to keep our schools and communities safe from the effects of COVID-19.

We will provide further updates on the situation following the Easter holidays as soon as we are able to.

Thank you for your support and co-operation,

Gareth Morgans

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