



Thursday, 16 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Autumn Term – ‘Restart Refresh Recover’**

We hope you and your families are all well.

We have been delighted with the collaboration between you, your children and school over the last few months and increasingly so as we have moved to see groups of children attend school again. Staff have been thrilled to see your children.

Not wanting to be accused of being a stuck record, I have been delighted with the efforts of our staff, and also your recognition of the dedication staff have shown, particularly as they have had to manage their own families’ struggles, by balancing the delivery of education to your child during this difficult time.

As you may know, this week we received documentation from the Welsh Government to support our schools opening in September. We are delighted that we can at last plan for an effective and safe back to school plan or **‘Restart Refresh Recover’**. The Operational Guidance and Learning Guidance are below for your reading.

Operational guidance:

En – <https://bit.ly/30mNdx0>

Cy – <https://bit.ly/2CCeenV>

Learning guidance:

En – <https://bit.ly/2DP0NS>

Cy - <https://bit.ly/2B51V2R>

The documents helpfully provide us with the framework for us at Chepstow to put in place proportionate and protective measures to ensure staff and children can access learning across the full curriculum and to open to full capacity.

Since the publication of the guidance, we have engaged ourselves in discussions with our Cluster, Monmouthshire schools and neighbouring authorities to attempt to deliver an approach where all children will be back in fulltime education by the 14<sup>th</sup> of September at the very latest. We hope that this approach will alleviate disruptions to you and your families.

At Chepstow School we will take the following approach to the autumn term start which we feel is appropriate and what we think is best for our school, and our circumstances, and gives attentions to:



- The capacity of the building to include the full management of our facilities and logistical arrangements: including buildings, resources, cleaning and transport availability;
- Health and safety and wellbeing needs of staff and children;
- Risk assessments;
- The planning of education and induction for your child.

This plan is based on three key considerations:

1. Robust risk assessments and hierarchy of risk controls are in place
2. Behaviour management approaches are effective
3. Implementation of the new Test Trace and Protect Strategy supports our community

### **Our Plan/intention:**

#### **Week commencing 31st August**

Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September Planning and Preparation days;  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Induction for years 7, years 12 and 13 only.

#### **Week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> September**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September we welcome Years 7, 10, 11, + 6<sup>th</sup> Form;  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September we welcome all year groups for a full return to school.

**Attendance** – all children will be expected to return in September unless they have a medical or health reason not to. This will include learners who are not still shielding, if the advice at the time is that they should attend school.

Non school attendance will not lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPM) over the first half term however if a child is unable to return to the physical setting they must continue to engage with remote learning.

**Uniform** – We relaxed our school uniform policy over the summer term. In the autumn term, we will not take this approach. Uniform plays a vital role in contributing to the ethos of the school and the high standards we expect. The comprehensive uniform policy is shown on our web page:

<https://bit.ly/2Zzin52>

**Children's wellbeing and behaviours** – We will positively reinforce the schools behaviour policy <https://bit.ly/3h5CKN8> and reinforce behaviours around social distancing, physical contact and hygiene. Children who do not adhere or purposefully reject the schools rules will be asked to leave the school setting and you as parents/carers will be expected to collect your child immediately.



**Hygiene** – It also our expectation that your child adheres to the Public Health Wales advice which is to be vigilant of any signs of fever, ensure regular hand washing or hand sanitation when arriving or leaving school, between lessons, between break and before and after eating.

Ensure good respiratory hygiene by following the approach of ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’.

If your child has a cold, is unwell, has a temperature loss of taste or smell by quickly recognising the symptoms transmission rates in our community can be identified and isolated. If your child shows any symptoms, you must self-isolate immediately and book a test. If living with someone showing symptoms you should also self-isolate.

The school has employed additional cleaning staff to join the team during day and evening to increase the frequency of cleaning of surfaces both in classrooms and outside areas.

**Equipment** – the school will not be issuing children with pens and pencils and other personalised learning equipment. We expect your child to attend school with their own pencil case with their own equipment to avoid unnecessary sharing of calculators, rulers etc.

**Start and end of the school day** – Children have always arrived to school on foot, cycle, scooter or transport and never do we find numbers congregating at the beginning of the day. The end of the school day is another matter where we do find large groups congregating. To counteract this we will dismiss any child that is not catching school buses early at 3.00pm. Children catching buses will be designated specific areas to ensure numbers at the end of the school day are minimised.

**Transport** remains an uncertainty at this time. As a school, we will follow the guidance. The latest advice and guidance is being issued shortly that will include the use of face coverings on all public transport.

**Catering** - We are very lucky to have a fantastic catering team who will resume to full capacity in September. The usual offer will be reduced however and we will adopt a ‘grab and go’ dining experience where children will be directed to designated food delivery areas to avoid queues and to prevent large groups congregating, they can eat in zoned designated areas. We promote children bringing in packed lunches. If you are eligible to free school meals, we can provide a hot meal.

**Grouping of children** – We are fortunate that the school follows a system where we ‘set’ learners to ensure lessons are appropriately challenging to children of all abilities. This will help our approach when grouping your child. In the secondary education setting, we have given full consideration to continue to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum whilst ensuring it is safe. This means your child will not be static in one classroom and will travel around the school when following their timetables in their groups.



Our overarching principle to this is: to reduce the number of contacts where possible, ensure the layout of the school and the one way system operates effectively and efficiently, reduce corridor numbers by offsetting classroom entries and exits times, enforce robust seating plans, revert to traditional face fronting learning and teaching, minimise year group contact, create designated playground areas and dining areas, avoid large gatherings such as assemblies, assess risk estimation and management processes to reduce any potential transmission between contact groups.

***Our approach is based on your child's ability to distance and comply with our expectations*** and the caveat that schools will reopen only if it is safe to do so.

Your child's timetables will be published and a letter from their pastoral lead will follow my letter at the end of next week, which will provide specific operational processes for year related groups, with more specific information around the first couple of weeks.

Finally, I joined the Welsh Government's Education Minister Kirsty Williams in a Webinar a few days ago where she said, "If we want to be back in our schools we must keep the community transmission rates as low as possible, this is very important". I trust you will agree that when we work together we can achieve anything, and I believe the vast majority of our children have behaved impeccably and responsibly over the last few months. They are a credit to you.

Almost there! I thought it important to reflect on this past year and I believe the school has thrived. I think we have established a new confidence in our school that was previously missing and hope that we have significantly began to rebuild the reputation of the school, which your children deserve.

At the end of every school year, it is often time to say goodbye to some of our colleagues, who will leave to further develop themselves in the next stages of their careers. On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank everybody for their contributions:

Adman Khan, Teacher of ICT and Computer Science;  
Bethan Lewis, Teacher of Welsh; and  
Molly Scull, Teacher of English

Keep your children and families safe this summer and I look forward in welcoming your child back to school early September

Best wishes

Matthew Sims  
Headteacher