



MAH/hc

10th December 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you will be aware, the numbers of Coronavirus cases are increasing rapidly across Wales, including in Ceredigion.

Schools are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain staffing levels as increased numbers of staff and their families are identified as contacts or experience symptoms and organise tests. Schools have limited staffing options due to the need to separate contact groups to prevent the spread of the virus. We are concerned that this situation will continue to worsen in the coming week. Secondary schools will close to the majority of students on Friday 11th December. Some students will be asked to attend on Monday 14th December and the school will contact your child if they are expected to be on site on Monday.

Ceredigion **primary and secondary schools** will provide distance learning as from **Tuesday 15th December** to the end of term **on Friday 18th December**. This will mean that students will not be on school premises during that period. Distance learning activities will be provided for them by their teachers. We will send another letter out tomorrow to confirm the arrangements for online learning for the next week.

Everyone will want to enjoy time with families over Christmas, and providing distance learning from the 15th onwards will give 10 days before Christmas day in the possible event of students or families needing to self-isolate.

If your child, or any member of your household has Covid-19 symptoms during the holiday period please continue to request a test by phoning 119 or using the online portal <https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-covid-19-test>.

If your child has a positive Covid test result over the holiday period please e mail your child's name, year group and school to SchoolCovidSymptoms@ceredigion.gov.uk. The self isolation period has now changed to 10 days and not 14.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), you will receive a BACS payment or Tesco voucher for £58.50 (per child) to assist you over the 3 weeks they will be at home. You should have received an email from Ceredigion County Council at the start of this week with a link to follow if you wish to submit your bank details for this purpose (you do not need to re-submit if you have received payments in the past). You will need to do this by 12pm Monday 14 December, as Ceredigion County

Pennaeth / Headteacher:- Ms Mair Hughes

Council hope to send out these payments/vouchers by the end of next week. If you did not receive an email and would prefer a payment rather than a voucher, please contact 01545 570 881 / clic@ceredigion.gov.uk.

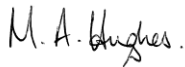
Students who have loaned a laptop from school during the last firebreak will be able to do so again for next week. If your child is in Years 10 – 13 and you are happy for them to take the laptop home with them, that is fine. They should come to collect the laptop at the end of the day from Student Services. If you would like to collect the laptop from school, please come to pick it up from reception between 3.30 – 5pm tomorrow. If this is not possible, please contact Miss Jones at cej@penglais.org.uk.

If you have not loaned a laptop previously from the school and have no other means of accessing work on line, please contact Miss Jones at cej@penglais.org.uk.

Another letter will follow tomorrow with further details regarding the online learning arrangements. Should you have any further questions, please contact admin@penglais.org.uk.

Thank you for your co-operation as always.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. A. Hughes." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ms M Hughes
Pennaeth/Headteacher