Cyngor **Abertawe**
Swansea Council

Adran Addysg
Canolfan Ddinesig, Heol Ystumllwynarth,
Abertawe, SA1 3SN
www.abertawe.gov.uk

Gofynnwch am:
Llinell Uniongyrchol:
E-bost:
Ein Cyf:
Eich Cyf:
Dyddiad: 4 Rhagfyr 2020

Annwyl Riant/Warcheidiad

Diolchwn i chi am y gefnogaeth yr ydych wedi'i rhoi i'n hysgolion dros y misoedd diwethaf. Mae wedi bod yn gyfnod heriol a bydd yn parhau i fod yn heriol am ychydig fisoedd eto. Fodd bynnag, drwy gydweithio rydym yn hyderus y byddwn yn dod drwy'r argyfwng iechyd cyhoeddus hwn. Rydym yn arbennig o ddiolchgar i rieni a disgyblion fel ei gilydd sydd wedi dilyn rheolau a rheoliadau cyhoeddus/ ysgolion er mwyn cadw'n ddiogel yn ystod tymor yr hydref.

Yr ydym yn ymwybodol y bu trafodaethau yn y wasg ynglŷn â'r pwysau ar y system addysg ac awgrymiadau ynglŷn ag wythnos lawn olaf y tymor, sy'n dechrau ar 14 Rhagfyr 2020. Ar ôl ystyried yr holl dystiolaeth a'r cyngor gwyddonol sydd ar gael, rydym yn ysgrifennu i gadarnhau safbwynt Cyngor Abertawe y bydd ysgolion yn parhau i fod ar agor i ddisgyblion tan ddydd Gwener 18 Rhagfyr. Bydd bron pob ysgol a darparwr yn Abertawe yn defnyddio 21 Rhagfyr a 22 Rhagfyr fel diwrnodau HMS.

Deallwn fod pwysau sylweddol ar staff mewn ysgolion ac mae llawer yn delio ag effaith achosion cadarnhaol o Covid-19 ar ysgolion. Er mwyn sicrhau lles ein plant, ein pobl ifanc a'n staff, a sicrhau bod pob un ohonom yn gallu mwynhau gwyliau'r ysgol gyda'n teuluoedd, mae angen i bob un ohonom barhau i weithredu'n gyfrifol dros yr wythnosau tyngedfennol nesaf.

Mae gan ysgolion yn Abertawe weithdrefnau llym ar waith i amddiffyn dysgwyr a staff ac mae ganddynt hanes ardderchog o gadw dysgwyr yn ddiogel a chadw dysgu i fynd. Fodd bynnag, mae llawer o ddysgwyr a staff wedi gorfod hunan ynysu am 14 diwrnod. Mae rhedeg ysgol ar hyn o bryd yn heriol dros ben i benaethiaid yn Abertawe. Rhaid inni gydnabod, unwaith eto, ymroddiad arweinwyr ein hysgolion a'u staff sydd wedi dyfalbarhau yn ystod y cyfnod anodd iawn hwn.

Mae penaethiaid ac arweinwyr eraill wedi bod ar-alwad bob dydd, gan gynnwys penwythnosau ers misoedd lawer. Rhaid inni nodi hefyd fod athrawon, cynorthwywyr addysgu a staff ysgolion wedi blino'n lân ac nad ydynt wedi cael seibiant gwirioneddol ers mis Medi. Mae cymhelliant staff sydd wedi bod yn ymateb i Covid-19 ers misoedd lawer yn dechrau pylu, yn ddealladwy. Fel y dywedodd un pennaeth yr wythnos hon "Ni

allaf barhau i wisgo fy nghlogyn anorchfygol." Mae arweinwyr ysgolion a'u staff yn blino fel y mae llawer o grwpiau eraill o weithwyr hanfodol.

Gydag achosion Covid-19 ar gynnydd mae'n amlwg bod rhai grwpiau o ddisgyblion wedi gorfod hunan ynysu sawl gwaith a bydd hyn wedi effeithio ar eu haddysg. Mae nifer cynyddol o achosion staff cadarnhaol neu staff sy'n gorfod hunan ynysu gan arwain at drafferthion staffio wedi bod yn thema amlwg yr wythnos hon. O ganlyniad, mae'n fwyfwy tebygol y gallai lefelau staffio anniogel olygu bod ysgolion unigol yn gorfod cau am resymau iechyd a diogelwch.

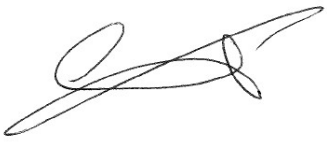
Mae'r effaith negyddol ar bresenoldeb yn yr ysgol yn dechrau dangos. Rydym yn ymwybodol bod ysgolion bellach yn derbyn ceisiadau i gadw plant i ffwrdd o'r ysgol yn ystod wythnos olaf y tymor. Mae'n hanfodol bwysig bod disgyblion yn mynychu'r ysgol pan allant, er mwyn cynnal parhad eu haddysg. Deallwn fod rhai rhieni wedi cyflwyno ceisiadau am absenoldeb ar gyfer eu plentyn/plant. Fel gyda phob cais am absenoldeb yn ystod y tymor, caiff y rhain eu hystyried fesul achos ond gan fod presenoldeb yn yr ysgol yn orfodol, mae'n debygol y bydd unrhyw absenoldeb, ac eithrio salwch neu hunan ynysu, yn anawdurdodedig. Ar hyn o bryd nid oes unrhyw gosbau am beidio â mynychu.

Gofynnwn yn garedig i chi weithio gyda ni i geisio sicrhau nad oes rhaid i'n dysgwyr, ein staff a'n teuluoedd hunan ynysu dros wyliau'r Nadolig. Bydd llai o achosion yn y gymuned yn golygu llai o achosion mewn ysgolion a fydd yn lleihau'r pwysau sy'n ein hwynebu ar hyn o bryd. Gofynnwn yn gwrtais i chi sicrhau bod eich plentyn yn cyfyngu ar eu cyswllt yn y gymuned ac yn parchu'r cyngor ynghylch golchi dwylo, cadw pellter cymdeithasol a gwisgo gorchuddion wyneb.

Bydd teuluoedd sy'n gymwys i gael prydau ysgol am ddim yn derbyn taliad ar gyfer gwyliau'r Nadolig (sy'n dechrau ar 23 Rhagfyr). Bydd rhagor o wybodaeth yn cael ei e-bostio at rieni cymwys. I deuluoedd lle nad yw taliadau uniongyrchol i gyfrifon banc yn bosibl, gellir archebu bag bwyd o'r ysgol i'w ddanfon i'r cartref.

Gobeithiwn y gallwn i gyd weithio gyda'n gilydd i gefnogi ein hysgolion a sicrhau y gallwn fwynhau gwyliau'r ysgol yn ddiogel. Diolch am eich holl gefnogaeth.

Cofion



Cllr Rob Stewart
Arweinydd y Cyngor

Cllr Jennifer Raynor
Aelod Cabinet dros Wella Addysg a Sgiliau

Phil Roberts
Prif Weithredwr

Helen Morgan-Rees
Cyfarwyddwr Addysg Dros Dro

Cyngor **Abertawe**
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Please ask for:
Direct Line:
E-Mail:
Our Ref:
Your Ref:
Date: 4 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We thank you for the support you have given our schools over the past few months. It has been a challenging time and it will continue to be challenging for a few more months. However, by working together we are confident we will get through this public health crisis. We are particularly grateful to parents and pupils alike who have followed the public and school rules and regulations for keeping safe during the autumn term.

We are aware that there have been discussions in the press concerning the pressures on the education system and suggestions with regard to the last full week of term, which commences on the 14 December 2020. Having considered all the evidence and the scientific advice available, we write to confirm Swansea Council's position that schools will remain open to pupils until Friday 18 December. Nearly all schools and providers in Swansea will utilise 21 December and 22 December as INSET days.

We understand that there are significant pressures on staff in schools and many are dealing with the impact of positive Covid-19 cases on schools. To ensure the wellbeing of our children, young people and our staff, and to ensure that all of us are able to enjoy the school holiday with our families, we all need to continue to act responsibly over the next few critical weeks.

Schools in Swansea have strict procedures in place to protect both learners and staff and have an excellent track record of keeping learners safe and keeping learning going. However, many learners and staff have had to self-isolate for 14 days. Our headteachers in Swansea are finding that running a school at this time is extremely challenging. We have to acknowledge, once again, the dedication of our school leaders and their staff who have persevered during these very difficult times.

Headteachers and other leaders have been on call every day, including weekends for many months. We also have to note that teachers, teaching assistants and other schools staff are exhausted and have not had a real break since September. The motivation of staff who have been responding to Covid-19 for many months is starting to wane, understandably. As one headteacher put it this week "I cannot keep wearing my

cloak of invincibility." School leaders and their staff are tiring as are many other groups of critical workers.

With Covid-19 cases on the rise it is evident that a few groups of pupils have had to self-isolate many times which will have impacted their education. An increasing number of positive staff cases or staff having to self-isolate leading to staffing issues has been a prominent theme this week. As a result, it is increasingly likely that unsafe staffing levels may result in individual schools having to close for health and safety reasons.

The negative impact on school attendance is starting to show. We are aware that schools are now receiving requests to keep children away from school during the last week of term. It is vitally important that pupils attend school when they can, to maintain the continuity of their education. We understand that a few parents have submitted leave of absence requests for their child/ren. As with all requests for term time absence these will be considered on a case by case basis but as attendance at school is compulsory it is likely any absence, other than for sickness or self-isolation, will be unauthorised. There are currently no penalties for non-attendance.

We kindly ask you to work with us to try and ensure that our learners, staff and families do not have to self-isolate over the Christmas school holiday. Fewer cases in the community will mean fewer cases in schools which will reduce the pressures we are currently facing. We ask you politely to ensure that your child/young person limits their contact in your community and respects the advice around washing hands, social distancing and wearing face coverings.

Families eligible for free school meals will receive a payment for the Christmas holidays (that commence on 23 December). Further information will be emailed to eligible parents. For families where direct payments into bank accounts are not possible, a food bag can be ordered from the school for home delivery.

We hope that we can all work together to support our schools and ensure that we can enjoy the school holiday safely. Thank you for all your support.

Regards

Cllr Rob Stewart
Leader

Cllr Jennifer Raynor
Cabinet Member for Education Improvement & Skills

Phil Roberts
Chief Executive

Helen Morgan-Rees
Interim Director of Education

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