

## SENT ON BEHALF OF FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL TO ALL SCHOOLS

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your positive and proactive response during these very challenging times. We have taken the decision that all schools who are able to, should open on Monday 23rd March to provide provision for children whose parents are **vital workers**, in the instance where they are either:

- **A single parent**
- **Both parents are vital workers**

At this point, we are waiting for more detailed information from WG regarding the definition of vital workers. From a pragmatic perspective, the Council has determined that provision should be made on Monday morning for children of parents who identify themselves as meeting the above criteria; the need for further checking regarding parental status will be considered during the week.

The expectation is that any child who can safely be cared for at home **should be** and it is in exceptional circumstances that they will need to access this provision. It is important that this message is reinforced with parents as the purpose of school closure is ultimately to reduce social contact.

Schools will be expected to offer extended provision to support the working requirements of these vital workers. Schools should plan to be open between 8.00am - 5.30pm.

We have planned that NEWydd will operate from the designated Hub schools. In light of the decision to keep schools open next week, NEWydd will be able to provide cold meals to cater for all children who attend. In limited settings, where catering staff are still available to work, food will be produced on site. We are engaging with the relevant service managers to determine how the food will be transported and your support with this will be appreciated.

Our Emergency Planning Team are clear that this arrangement will be in place for one week and that planning towards implementation of the Resilience Hubs must continue in earnest, with a view to implementation w/b Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

Schools will need to have regard to the latest WG and Public Health Wales advice and guidance when considering their provision, particularly with regard to social distancing and self-isolation, see link below:

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus>

Communication with parents is critical. Schools should maintain open lines of communication, being mindful of how best to ensure that all key messages are received. The Council will be updating its website with important information and promoting awareness of this through social media.

We are mindful that you will have a number of queries regarding this arrangement which we will collate and formulate a group FAQ.

We have been extremely grateful for your valuable contributions to this dialogue which has helped shape our provision for Monday.

Cofion cynnes /with kind regards

Claire Homard  
FCC