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Our Ref./Ein Cyf. LP/CG

Your Ref./Eich Cyf.

Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Lynn Phillips

Date:/ Dyddiad: 6th January 2021

Cyngor Bwrdeisdref Sirol
Blaenau Gwent
County Borough Council

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Education Arrangements and Childcare for Critical Workers

Following the latest Welsh Government announcement, Local Authorities throughout Wales will be required to provide remote learning for pupils up until Monday 18th January 2021. The situation remains under review, with the potential to be extended should this be considered necessary.

As an **essential requirement and where no other childcare options are available**, schools will offer a childcare provision for critical workers from Monday 11th January 2021 initially for a one-week period. The provision will be available between **8:30am - 3:30pm for eligible pupils, with exception of nursery, the hours for which will be in line with your child/children's current nursery session times**.

We will only consider placement for the children of critical workers (as defined by Welsh Government), in the following circumstances:

- where there are no other childcare options available to facilitate critical workers attending their place of work;
- where parents/carers are **unable** to work from home, and **must** attend their place of work as a critical worker; and,
- if your child/children are currently in one of the following year groups - Nursery to Year 9 (up to 14 years only)

I need to take this opportunity to make it clear that, in order to reduce opportunities for transmission of COVID-19, this provision is intended only **where there are no other alternative arrangements that are possible.**

Provision will be based on availability of places within your child/children's school, with due regard given to staffing and remote learning requirements. Therefore, places are not guaranteed.

Your child/children will be required to wear their uniform. All parents/cares will have to **provide their child with a packed lunch and snack, as no catering provision will be available**.

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.
Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn cyfathrebu gyda chi yn eich dewis iaith, dim ond i chi rhoi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

However, free school meal direct payments will continue for eligible families who have been approved.

There will be **no school transport provision available throughout this period**.

If you are a **critical worker with no other childcare options**, please apply via the following link: https://iweb.itouchvision.com/portal/f?p=customer:category_link:::::CUID,LANG:DB6AA29B7B52C526266320E058317401A8C03A39,EN&P_LANG=en

Applications require a quick turnaround and will need to be submitted **by 5pm on Thursday 7th January 2021**.

Should you require assistance with your application, please contact us on: (01495) 355493.

We will be in touch regarding the outcome of your application on Friday 8th January 2021.

Once an application has been approved, should the remote learning period be extended, you will not need to re-apply. We will contact you to determine your childcare requirements directly. Therefore, please ensure that your contact details are correct.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents that your child/children should not access this provision if they are:

- **A confirmed case of COVID-19**
- **Experiencing symptoms of COVID-19**
- **Living with a confirmed case of COVID-19**
- **Identified as a contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19**
- **Living with someone with symptoms of COVID-19 and who is awaiting a test result**

Thank you for your continued support.

Best Wishes

Lynn Phillips
Corporate Director for Education
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council