

22 Mehefin/June 2020

Annwyl Riant/Gofalwr / Dear Parent/Carer,

Byddwch yn ymwybodol iawn o gyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cymru ar Fehefin 3ydd fod ysgolion i ailagor yn rhannol, er mwyn 'dod i'r ysgol, dal ati i ddysgu a pharatoi'.

Roedd y cyhoeddiad gwreiddiol yn nodi y byddai hyn am gyfnod o bedair wythnos o Fehefin 29ain. Mae'r Cyngor yn ddiolchgar iawn am yr holl waith caled sy'n cael ei wneud mewn ysgolion i baratoi ar gyfer y 29ain ac i chi fel rhieni / gofalwyr am eich dyfalbarhad, eich cydweithrediad a'ch amynedd wrth gynorthwyo ysgolion i baratoi ar gyfer yr ailagor.

Dros yr wythnosau diwethaf, bu trafodaethau parhaus yn genedlaethol yn ymwneud â'r wythnos sy'n dechrau Gorffennaf 20fed. Ein dealltwriaeth ni yw na all Llywodraeth Cymru a'r undebau llafur gyrraedd safbwynt cyffredin ar y bedwaredd wythnos ac dydd Iau Mehefin 18fed, trwy wefan y BBC, nododd Llywodraeth Cymru taw "ysgolion a chynghorau fydd â'r gair olaf ynghylch a fydd tymor yr haf yn cael ei estyn am wythnos ychwanegol".

Rydym i gyd yn ymwybodol iawn o'r anawsterau y bydd yr ansicrwydd hwn yn ei achosi wrth i chi wneud penderfyniadau ynglŷn a fydd eich plant yn mynychu'r ysgol y tymor hwn, ac unrhyw drefniadau gofal plant y bydd angen i chi eu gwneud.

Mae hyn wedi rhoi ysgolion a'r Cyngor mewn sefyllfa anodd iawn. Gan nad oes rhwymedigaeth gytundebol ar staff i weithio'r wythnos ychwanegol mae hyn i bob pwrpas yn rhoi'r baich ar benaethiaid ac aelodau staff unigol. Nid yn unig byddai hyn yn annheg

You will be well aware of the Welsh Government announcement on 3rd June that schools are to partially reopen on a 'check in, catch up and prepare' basis.

The original announcement stipulated that this would be for a period of four weeks from 29th June. The Council is very grateful for all the hard work being done in schools to prepare for the 29th and to you as parents/carers for your perseverance, cooperation and patience in assisting schools to prepare for the reopening.

Over the past weeks there have been on going discussions nationally relating to the week commencing 20th July. It is our understanding that the Welsh Government and the trade unions cannot reach a common position on the fourth week and that on Thursday 18th June, via the BBC website, Welsh Government stated that "schools and councils will have the final say on whether the summer term is extended for an extra week".

We are all acutely aware of the difficulties this uncertainty will be causing you in your decision making as to whether or not your children will attend school this term, and any childcare arrangements you would need to make.

This has put schools and the Council in a very difficult position. As there is no contractual obligation on staff to work the extra week, this effectively puts the onus on head teachers and individual staff members. Not only would this would be unfair, it could

ond gall hefyd arwain at anghysondeb ar draws y Bwrdeistref Sirol gan na fyddai sicrwydd y byddai pob ysgol mewn sefyllfa i ddarparu lefel staffio digonol yn y bedwaredd wythnos yn wirfoddol.

Barn y Cyngor yw bod angen eglurder ar unwaith ar ysgolion, rhieni a disgyblion fel y gallant gynllunio bod cymaint o ddisgyblion â phosibl yn cael cyfle i 'ddod i'r ysgol, dal ati i ddysgu a pharatoi' yn ystod y cyfnod hwn. Mae rhieni a phobl ifanc angen wynebu'r ychydig wythnosau nesaf yma yn hyderus a chael y cyfle i wneud trefniadau gofal plant yn ôl yr angen ar gyfer y bedwaredd wythnos. Nid yw hyn yn rhywbeth y gellir ei adael i'r funud olaf ac mae'r Cyngor yn ymwybodol iawn o'i gyfrifoldebau statudol fel cyflogwr ac yng nghyd-destun diogelu plant a phobl ifanc.

Ein safbwynt ni yw ein bod am i bob ysgol a gynhelir gan yr awdurdod lleol, yr awdurdodau esgobaethol ac ysgolion ffederasiwn, fabwysiadu'r un safiad. Rydym yn falch o'n dulliau partneriaeth fel tîm ac yn gweithio fel un.

Ystyrir bod dull gweithredu cyson yn hanfodol a byddai'n llawer gwell gan y Cyngor fod wedi gweld y materion hyn yn cael eu datrys yn genedlaethol ar y cychwyn, cyn y cyhoeddiad gwreiddiol.

O ystyried hyn i gyd, penderfynwyd i lynu at ddyddiadau'r tymor gwreiddiol ac nid yw'r Cyngor yn cynnig gofyn i staff addysgu na staff eraill ysgolion i wirfoddoli, ac felly bydd ysgolion yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol yn cau am wyliau'r haf ar Orffennaf 17eg.

Gwerthfawrogir y bydd y penderfyniad uchod yn arwain at waith ychwanegol i benaethiaid a chyrrff llywodraethu wrth iddynt gynllunio darpariaeth ar gyfer y cyfnod o dair wythnos

potentially lead to inconsistency across the County Borough as there is no guarantee that all schools would be in a position to adequately staff provision in the fourth week on a voluntary basis.

It is the view of the Council that schools, parents and pupils require immediate clarity so that they can plan that as many pupils as possible have the opportunity to 'check in, catch up and prepare' during this period. Parents and young people need to approach the next few next weeks with confidence and have the opportunity to make alternative childcare arrangements as required for the fourth week. This is not something that can be left to the last minute and the Council is very mindful of its statutory responsibilities both as an employer and in the context of the safeguarding of children and young people.

Our position is that we want all schools, maintained by the local authority, the diocesan authorities and federation schools, to adopt the same position. We are proud of our partnership approaches and as a team we work as one.

A consistent approach is deemed essential and the Council would have much preferred to have seen these issues resolved on a national basis at the outset, prior to the original announcement.

Taking into account all considerations, it has been decided that the original term dates will be adhered to and that the Council does not propose to ask teaching and other school staff to volunteer and therefore schools in the County Borough will close for the summer holidays on 17th July.

It is appreciated that the above decision will result in additional work for headteachers and governing bodies in planning provision for the three week period and that there is a

a bod posibilrwydd gwirioneddol y bydd angen i ysgol eich plentyn gysylltu â chi i'ch hysbysu am newidiadau i unrhyw drefniadau y maent wedi eu gwneud eisioes. Mae posibilrwydd y bydd angen i ysgolion leihau nifer y diwrnodau y gall eich plentyn fynd i'r ysgol y tymor hwn.

Gawn ni bwysleisio nad yw ysgolion yn gyfrifol mewn unrhyw ffordd am y sefyllfa y maent bellach yn cael eu hunain ynddi. Deallir y gallai dileu'r bedwaredd wythnos achosi anghyfleustra a phryderon i chi fel rhieni / gofalwyr. Rydym yn eich sicrhau, nid yw'r penderfyniad na ddylai ysgolion ailagor am yr wythnos sy'n dechrau'r 20fed o Orffennaf wedi'i wneud yn ysgafn ond am y rhesymau a amlinellir uchod.

significant possibility that your child's school will need to contact you to inform you of amendments to any arrangements they have currently made. There is a possibility that schools will need to reduce the number of days your child is able to go to school this term.

Can we emphasise that schools are not in any way responsible for the position that they now find themselves in. It is understood that the removal of the fourth week may cause you as parents/carers inconvenience and concerns. We assure you, the decision that schools should not reopen for the week commencing 20th July has not been taken lightly but for the reasons outlined above.

Cynghorydd / Councillor Cllr Mark Pritchard

*Arweinydd y Cyngor /
Leader of the Council*

Cynghorydd / Councillor Cllr Phil Wynn

*Aelod Arweiniol dros Addyg /
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Ian Bancroft

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