



24 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

I hope that you and your family are well. In my previous letter, I explained that the Welsh Government had announced that schools were to reopen on 29 June for four weeks on a 'check in' basis. Delighted by the announcement, we formed plans that we believed were right for our community and prepared staffing and resources accordingly.

On Friday evening, I received a letter from the Chief Executive of Cardiff Council explaining that these plans could no longer go ahead. It stated:

"The Welsh Government and the school workforce Trade Unions have not been able to reach a common position on the fourth week despite ongoing discussions. Without such national agreement term dates remain a matter for local determination.

It is our view that at this late stage it is essential that headteachers and schools have clarity for planning the return of pupils in a week's time. Any changes to local determination would require a period of consultation and would inevitably lead to significant inconsistency of provision across the region, creating many difficulties for parents and staff. Cardiff Council will therefore not be seeking variation to the existing term dates, with the end of term remaining at 20 July."

This decision unfortunately means that our plans are no longer viable. Not to be disheartened, we have quickly put together a new provision which we consider to be even better than the first! I can therefore confirm the arrangements for 'checking in' will be as follows:

Year 7

- Year 7 will be invited to school on **three** occasions: Monday 29 June, Monday 6 July and Monday 13 July.
- Visits will be short, scheduled for two hours, to remove the need for breaks or catering.
- In groups of no more than 12, pupils will have a series of engaging and interesting lessons.

Year 8

- Year 8 will be invited to school on **three** occasions: Tuesday 30 June, Tuesday 7 July and Tuesday 14 July.
- Visits will be short, scheduled for two hours, to remove the need for breaks or catering.
- In groups of no more than 12, pupils will have a series of engaging and interesting lessons.

Year 9

- Year 9 will be invited to school on **three** occasions: Wednesday 1 July, Wednesday 8 July and Wednesday 15 July.
- Visits will be short, scheduled for two hours, to remove the need for breaks or catering.
- In groups of no more than 12, pupils will have a series of engaging and interesting lessons.

Year 10

- Year 10 will be invited to school on **six** occasions: Thursday 2 July, Friday 3 July, Thursday 9 July, Friday 10 July, Thursday 16 July and Friday 17 July.
- Visits will be short, scheduled for two hours, to remove the need for breaks or catering.
- In groups of no more than 12, pupils will receive daily English and Mathematics lessons to prepare for Year 11.

Your child will receive an email on 25 June 2020 at their school email address confirming:

- **The dates of their check in visits**
- **The times of their check in visits**
- **The room for the check in visit**
- **The names of the teachers who will be teaching them**

Please ask your child to log into their school email account by visiting <https://mail.stteilos.com/owa>. If you have any difficulties accessing this information, please contact closurehelpline@stteilos.com.

For older pupils, provision will be a little different:

- Year 11 will receive an email directly from the Sixth Form Achievement Leader inviting them to book visits to the school to discuss post-16 options, if desired.
- Year 12 will receive an email directly from the Sixth Form Achievement Leader inviting them to book visits to the school for support with the UCAS process.

Our Phase 3 Learning From Home provision will continue until 20 July 2020. The check in visits will be in addition to this.

I have included some frequently asked questions on the following pages which will hopefully make the arrangements as clear as possible.

My very best wishes,

Mr I Loynd
Headteacher

Frequently Asked Questions

When will my child come to school for their check in visit?

Pupils will come to school in half year groups. The morning visit will be from 9.30-11.30am. The afternoon visit will be from 1.00-3.00pm. ***Your child will receive an email with details specific to them on Thursday 25 June. Please be sure to read this information.***

Will school transport be running?

The local authority have been able to schedule a service for school bus routes for the afternoon sessions only. All bus routes will operate as normal, with times adjusted for a 1pm start. Unfortunately, there will not be transport for the morning sessions. We strongly encourage children to walk or cycle to school wherever this is possible. The morning check in visits will place an additional burden on some families who will be required to transport their child to and from school. Your understanding in these difficult circumstances is appreciated.

What will my child do during their check in visit?

In Years 7, 8 and 9, pupils will receive interesting, fun and engaging lessons from across the curriculum. Our focus will be on settling your child into new, physically distant routines in school. In Year 10, pupils will receive a daily English and mathematics lesson to prepare for the next academic year.

Will my child be able to see their friends?

Pupils have been scheduled to attend school in half year groups. As far as possible, they will be grouped with others from their usual teaching classes. There will be a good opportunity, therefore, to see friends and catch up.

How will the school be kept safe?

All of our reopening plans are available online here: <http://www.stteilos.com/summer-term-reopening-plans/>. There are lots of commonly asked questions and examples of plans and signage for you to see.

Will there be any food or drink available?

No. However, there is no problem with your child bringing their own bottle of water, especially if it's a hot day.

Will my child need to bring any equipment?

It would be useful if your child attended school with a pen of their own to use.

What should my child be doing at home between check in sessions?

Phase 3 of our Learning From Home provision will continue until the end of term. Modules will continue to be published fortnightly on Hwb. Phases 1 and 2 remain available on Hwb also if your child would prefer.

I still have questions! Who can I contact?

For technical difficulties: closurehelpine@stteilos.com

All other enquiries: headteacher@stteilos.com