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| **Lynette Lovell****Prif Swyddog Addysg Dros Do****Interim Chief Education Officer** |  | **Atebwch os gwelwch yn dda /Please reply to:**Gwasanaeth Ysgolion **/** Schools ServiceCyngor Sir Powys / Powys County CouncilNeuadd y Sir / County HallLlandrindod WellsPowys LD1 5LG |
|  | *Os yn galw gofynnwch am / If calling please ask for* |
|  | *Ffôn / Tel:*  01597 826630*Ffacs / Fax:*  *Ffôn symudol / Mobile:* *E-bost / Email: Lynette.Lovell@powys.gov.uk* *Eich cyf / Your ref:* *Ein cyf / Our ref:* *Dyddiad / Date: 16 March 2020* |

**Coronavirus (Covid-19)**

Dear Parent/Carer

Powys County Council’s primary concern is for the safety of children in our schools and we will continue to act in their best interests.

While the situation regarding coronavirus is developing quickly, please be assured that we are working closely with schools, Public Health Wales and Welsh Government in order to implement any necessary measures to protect pupils, staff and visitors from the spread of coronavirus.

Your child’s school is following specific advice issued by Welsh Government in relation to the management of coronavirus in schools.

National advice, **as of today (16 March 2020)**, remains very much a case of ‘business as usual’, but I wanted to reassure you that we are closely monitoring developments, both locally and nationally.  In this respect, we are currently developing a strategy to ensure that effective plans and resources are in place to respond appropriately to this changing situation.

For information, there is a range of advice available to the public on the Public Health Wales, Welsh Government and UK Government websites in relation to coronavirus.

In addition, more specific advice for parents and carers can be found on the Public Health Wales website and I would encourage you to access this routinely. Further general advice in relation to travel to or from the UK can also be found on the website of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

In the meantime, your support as parents/carers is critical to our strategy to fight the spread of coronavirus.  I can only reiterate that the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus through good hygiene.

Therefore, please advise your child to wash their hands:

* before leaving home
* on arrival at school
* after using the toilet
* before food preparation
* after breaks and sporting activities
* before eating any food, including snacks
* before leaving school
* on returning home from school

Please also advise your children to:

* avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
* avoid close contact with people who are unwell

**What to do if your child / you have symptoms of Coronavirus**

Your child / you should stay at home for 7 days if you have either:

* a high temperature
* a new continuous cough

**Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.**

If you have need to stay at home, follow the self-isolation advice from Public Health Wales.

**You should only contact 111 if:**

* you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
* your condition gets worse
* your symptoms do not get better after 7 days

Please be assured once again that the local authority is taking all possible steps to respond to this situation.

Yours sincerely,



**Lynette Lovell**

**Prif Swyddog Addysg Dros Do**

**Interim Chief Education Officer**