

## **Schools Update – Friday 8 January**

Schools across the county are likely to continue with online learning until at least February half term unless there is a significant reduction in coronavirus cases, Powys County Council has said.

This morning (Friday, January 8), the Welsh Government announced that alert level four restrictions will continue and unless there is a significant reduction in cases before 29 January – the date of the next review – schools will continue to provide online learning until February half term.

Schools will remain open but only for children of critical workers and vulnerable learners.

Cllr Phyl Davies, Cabinet Member for Education, said: “I welcome the Welsh Government’s announcement, which provides greater clarity for our learners, their families and for our school staff. We will work with our school leaders to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to support all our learners over the coming weeks.

“We are committed to returning to face-to-face teaching and learning as soon as possible but only when it is safe to do so.

“The Welsh Government has made it clear that unless there is a significant reduction in coronavirus cases before January 29, online learning will continue until February half term.

“The situation remains very serious and it is important that we all follow the advice to stay at home and protect our health service.

“Schools will remain open but only for children of critical workers as well as vulnerable learners where absolutely necessary. However, it is important that children remain at home wherever possible, as this is the safest place for everyone.

“Our priority is the safety and wellbeing of our learners and school staff. Until there is a significant reduction in coronavirus cases and medical and scientific advice allows learners to return to school, online learning will continue in Powys until further notice.

“I would like to thank schools for their ongoing efforts to support pupils during this difficult time and I would also like to thank parents for their patience and co-operation during this unprecedented period of disruption to our schools.”

**ENDS**

Lee Evans  
Swyddog Cyfathrebu ac Ymgysylltu  
Communications and Engagement Officer  
Ffôn/Tel: 01597 826023  
Ffôn Symudol/Mobile: 07769 640058