

Opening up childcare and education

What

- Schools will start the next phase on 29 June, with the term extended by a week, therefore ending on 27 July.
- Autumn half-term break will be expanded to two weeks.
- Further Education colleges will re-open from 15 June for students requiring licence to practice assessments and vulnerable learners.
- Childcare providers will also increase the numbers of children in attendance from 29 June.

How

- In each school there will be a phased approach.
- Year groups will be split into cohorts with staggered starts, lessons and breaks.
- It is expected that this will mean, at most, a third of pupils present at any one time, though schools may need time to reach this level of operation.
- Much smaller classes, providing secure dedicated time with teachers and classmates.
- This time will include online and personalised classroom experience, getting children and teachers ready for a similar experience in September.

Why

- Since the decision to close schools for statutory provision, our understanding of the virus and its longer-term impacts has continued to develop.
- We know that we are going to have to live with it for some time.
- We know that it will remain our biggest challenge for the foreseeable future.
- It is now 77 days since we took that decision.
- We know that the classroom experience will be different for a long time to come.
- What we are doing is creating the opportunity for children to Check in, Catch Up and Prepare before the start of September.

What next

- Next week, the Welsh Government will publish guidance to support childcare, schools, as well as further and higher education institutions.
- This will include information on managing their facilities and logistical arrangements, including buildings, resources, cleaning and transport.