



**Gwasanaethau Cymorth
Cyfathrebu a Synhwyrdd**

**Sensory & Communication
Support Service**

Ty Aberhonddu,
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William Brown Close,
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Telephone: 01633 648888

23rd April 2020

Dear Parents

I wanted to give you an update on how The Sensory and Communication Support Service (SenCom) are continuing to respond to the CoVID19 situation across our region and how we can offer you additional help if required.

Supporting Learning at Home

- ComIT staff have been in contact with school staff about children and young people who had been receiving 1-1 support sessions in school, during Spring Term 2020. Learning packs on specific aspects of speech, language or communication have been sent to school staff who can then send these on to the families of the children and young people.
- If requested, ComIT staff are available to give further strategies/activities/materials on Speech, Language and Communication. Please contact your school, who can then ask ComIT for further support.
- Hearing and Vision Impairment service staff are in contact with families and where parents ask for help they can provide advice on how they may support their children with access to learning at home.
- Families of children and young people who were receiving regular intervention from SenCom are being given ideas/online materials for them to support their children's continued learning of skills.
- We are looking at how we can use online resources to reach out and maintain contact between families and SenCom and are in the process of developing our presence on Hwb/Facebook and Twitter. Look out for this. More information will be shared as soon as it is available.

Specialist Equipment

- Hearing and Vision Impairment service staff can provide remote support to families on how to use specialist equipment to support learning from home.
- Our building is closed and all SenCom staff are working from home. Please get in touch if any of our equipment fails and when we regain access to our resources, we will consider how we can resolve any such issues.

New Key Worker Childcare Settings/Additional Learning Needs Provision

- If your child is attending one of these provisions, we ask that you get in touch with us. SenCom can offer remote advice for children and young people with a Speech, Language and Communication/Sensory Additional Learning Need to support them in these settings.

- If your child uses specialist technology/equipment loaned to them by SenCom in a setting. We would be able to offer guidance on how this equipment can be used to support the activities they will do whilst there.

Can we please ask you to **confirm the name of your child, your contact email and telephone number(s)**, so that we can update our records and maintain contact with you during these unprecedented times. This way, we can reliably keep in touch.

You can contact us via **01633 648888** or our main email addresses:

Sencom@torfaen.gov.uk

ComIT@torfaen.gov.uk

HIS@torfaen.gov.uk

VIS@torfaen.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



Roger Thurlbeck

Head of Sensory and Communication Support Service

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Cc: Heads of Inclusion for Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Newport, Monmouthshire, Torfaen