

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are sure that you are aware of the Minister for Education's announcement on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, that schools were to re-open from 29<sup>th</sup> June. This announcement included the extension of the summer by an extra week, to provide an opportunity for children to check-in, catch up and prepare for the summer. All schools in Denbighshire had developed plans to ensure that pupils have the best experience possible on their return to school in a safe and supported environment.

However, whilst all schools and the local authority were totally supportive of the announcement to extend the school term, unfortunately it has become clear that a national agreement between the Welsh Government and the trade unions has not been reached on the fourth week proposal. This means that the local authority is unable to follow due process in order to make the required change to the term dates within the time frame, as required by The Education (School Day and School Year) (Wales) Regulations 2003. It also means that Headteachers and Governing Bodies would be unable to guarantee that every school would be staffed sufficiently on a voluntary basis.

Therefore, as we cannot guarantee that every school would be staffed sufficiently, and being mindful of our statutory responsibilities both as an employer and for the safeguarding of children and young people, Denbighshire schools will close for the summer holidays on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

We will provide information regarding emergency childcare as it becomes available,

but the Welsh Government has made it clear that schools are not expected to make this ongoing provision.

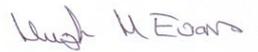
We would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your patience and understanding during these very challenging times.

Regards



**Judith Greenhalgh**

Chief Executive Denbighshire County Council



**Hugh Evans**

Leader of the Council and Lead Member for the Economy and Corporate Governance



**Cllr Huw Hilditch-Roberts**

Cabinet Lead Member for Education, Children's Services and Public Engagement



**Karen Evans**

Head of Education and Children's Services