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PLAN TO LOAN IPADS TO HELP PUPILS GET ONLINE AT HOME

Plans are being finalised to loan 500 iPads to Pembrokeshire school pupils to help them get online and aid learning at home.

The devices will help ensure that pupils without access to digital learning do not miss out while schools are closed during the coronavirus outbreak.

To ensure that pupils are able to get online, even in homes without internet access, Pembrokeshire County Council is to buy 500 4G MiFi mobile internet devices.

These will be loaned alongside the iPads to help pupils access the online learning resources organised by schools.

The 4G service will provide a basic level of content control and while not a replacement for in-school filtering, will provide restrictions for content unsuitable for children.

Schools are currently being contacted to determine supplies of iPads available for loan and to organise collection, testing and installation of relevant apps.

Where schools have insufficient devices, stock will be loaned from an alternate school or via the Hwb Transformation Programme.

Supporting packs for set up and further dedicated support is being organised.

The Council will also buy 500 tough cases to provide protection for the devices during their loan period.

It is accepted that there is the risk of damage during the loan period and neither parents nor the school would be expected to cover any cost of damage in such circumstances.

Once the method for loaning an iPad has been agreed further details will be released.

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