



This is the thirteenth in our weekly COVID 19 Business Support Information

Reopening guidance for food businesses

The Food Standards Agency have published guidance to support food businesses to reopen safely during COVID-19 after a period of inaction. The guidance includes:

- [a reopening checklist for food businesses](#)
- [planning and preparation for start-up](#)
- [site checks](#)
- [equipment checks](#)
- [ingredient and product checks](#)
- [social distancing measures](#)

For further information please visit the [FSA](#) website.

Make the move online with Superfast Business Wales

We have [a range of free webinars](#) for businesses affected by COVID-19. These will help you put digital at the heart of your business to make sure your customers find you in this increasingly competitive online space.

Now more than ever, digital can be a lifeline to help you keep your business running safely. Our free **30-minute live sessions** are designed to give you what you need right now to make the switch online.

From payment systems and creating communities, to getting found and improving wellbeing, join us as we share hints and tips of adapting your business to the new normal.

Here are the topics available for the taster sessions:

- Moving your business online
- Online payment systems
- Create a virtual local space
- Manage your business from home
- Help customers find you online
- Cyber security for small businesses

[Book your place here](#)



Time is running out to apply!

30th June is the cut-off date for businesses to claim the **Non domestic rates grant** of up to £25k check if you, your suppliers or clients have claimed, pass the link below on!

- It doesn't matter if you have continued to trade through this pandemic
- It will not happen automatically if you pay business rates you still need to apply

Please complete the [Business Rates Grant \(COVID-19\)](#) form to allow Torfaen council to collate all requests and to consider if it is appropriate to award the grant. **Applications received after 5pm on 30th June 2020 will not be considered.**

Pontypool nursery supports families throughout lockdown

Osbourne Lodge Nursery, a well-established children's nursery in the heart of Pontypool town and running for over 22 years has been open throughout the COVID-19 lockdown and supporting keyworker parents in whatever way they have been able to. In addition, vulnerable children have been able to receive care throughout the period.

Nikola Masters, owner of the nursery said "We were faced with a stark choice in March – either to lock the doors and go home for the foreseeable months, or, given that many of the parents we support with childcare are critical workers themselves, to try and continue to help them in the best way we could."

"We were overwhelmed when our two managers, Lisa and Clare, volunteered to stay in work and support families who, without the childcare, would not be able to perform their key roles in hospitals, care homes and the community. I am also extremely grateful to our wonderful staff who volunteered to return to work and play their part."

12 weeks on and the Nursery has 4 staff working daily whilst Nikola herself is running the administration side of the business.

Nikola continued, 'It has been a very difficult period and we have, unfortunately, run at a loss during much of it. However the moral duty we felt as a team made the hard work and extra stress worth all the effort. Knowing that we have been able to make a small difference during the pandemic has been brilliant. Many changes have been made to our daily operations but the exceptional care, love and fun the children receive has not changed a bit!'

[Read the full story here](#)

[Osborne Lodge Nursery](#) are looking forward to welcoming more children back into the Nursery from 29th June.



Are you a business in Torfaen that has a story on how you have helped in the fight against Covid 19, please get in touch so we can help you promote your business' efforts and encourage other local businesses to do the same?

E-mail: info@southwalesbusiness.co.uk

If you are a business in Torfaen, ready to open for your customers let us know by including us [@Torfaenbiz](#) & our [Facebook page](#) in your posts using **#Openforbusiness** with pictures.

Economy & Enterprise Team – Business Support

If you need to get in touch with an enquiry complete your [details here](#) and we will contact you as soon as possible.

COVID-19: guidance for employees, employers and businesses

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>

COVID-19: Support for businesses

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

Watch our twitter for further updates [@Torfaenbiz](#)