

Ysgol Gynradd Llanfair-ym-Muallt Builth Wells Primary School



Hospital Road

Builth Wells

Powys

LD2 3GA

Tel: (01982) 553600

Email: office@builth.powys.sch.uk

Website: www.builth.powys.sch.uk

Prifathro / Headteacher: Mr. Gareth Cornelius

15th January 2021

Ionawr 15fed 2021

Annwyl Rieni / Warchodwyr,

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have had an excellent level of engagement with our blended school / home learning. On behalf of all the staff and governors I would like to thank you all sincerely for making this work so well under very difficult conditions.

It already seems like a long winter. Many of us have missed seeing family and friends over Christmas and, as this has continued into January, we are more aware than ever of the need to try to give all children some actual contact with their classmates and staff. We want to give them a boost, catch-up with them and help them to have some fun. We also want to be able to provide an extra level of support to children and parents with the blended learning, especially if you are having to manage at home.

We are introducing **'Live Learning Support Sessions'** via Microsoft Teams on the Hwb platform. Children will be able to say 'hello' and the staff can check-in with everyone. Teachers will make sure children understand the learning tasks planned for the week, try to answer any questions and provide further explanations where they are needed. We hope that this will provide a further level of support to pupils and parents. We also intend to have sessions which are simply for the joy of interacting with each other and having some fun.

Timings and information on how to access the sessions will be shared early next week. The sessions will be staggered across the day to allow families with siblings to be able to access them. They should not last any longer than around 15-25 minutes, depending on the age of the children. We would like to encourage as many as possible to join each session but we understand that it may not always be possible. If you can't attend a particular session, please let the class teacher know via the 'Chat' on their class Teams page.

All parents must read the 'Live Learning Support Acceptable Use & Data Protection Agreement' sent separately. Copies are also available on the school website and in the 'Files' section of the **'Live Learning Support – Cefnogaeth Dysgu Byw'** channel on your child's class Team. **You must tell us that you have read this agreement and informed us of your preferences regarding the use of camera and microphone for data protection purposes. Please use the Microsoft Forms link emailed with this letter to respond. You must do this before we can start the sessions so please respond a.s.a.p.**



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We would strongly encourage you to consent to your child using both the microphone and camera because we have been informed by Welsh Government that we must make arrangement to see and hear every pupil regularly to make sure they are safe and well (please see the letter sent yesterday by Cllr. Phyl Davies on behalf of Powys County Council).

The recorded video-streamed messages will continue for those who are unable to attend the sessions and we will build on these to use as 'How To' instruction guides at a time that is convenient to you.

We will continually review the balance and effectiveness of our live sessions, video-recorded material, planning and paper-based resources to try to support learners as effectively as we can. We are ever-mindful of the fact that some pupils will have difficulty accessing online support and we continue to look for ways to overcome these problems.

We would also like to stress to parents that **we do not expect children to be looking at a screen for hours at a time.** Through our blended learning plans we encourage a wide range of activities where children can be learning through practical tasks away from computer screens. And of course, we all know that primary-age children need lots of opportunities to play, run around and keep fit and healthy, hard as that is in these challenging times.

Thank you for your continued support.

G. Cornelius

Headteacher



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