***Blaenbaglan Primary School - Ysgol Gynradd Blaenbaglan***

Headteacher: **Mr. D. Burrows**

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***Together we believe, achieve & succeed***

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that you are all safe and well. As we near the end of week 8 of lockdown, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the pupils and staff for your continued support in these very surreal times.

**Childcare Provision**

We continue to offer childcare provision for children of key workers at the Ysgol Bae Baglan Hub. Staff have been placed on a rota basis to ensure numbers are kept to a minimum but also to ensure that the pupils see a familiar face when they attend. Please remember that if you are a key worker and would like to send your child to the provision then please email the school. [Blaenbaglan@npt.school](mailto:Blaenbaglan@npt.school)

**Home Schooling**

Staff have been working tirelessly from home to provide online materials for pupils to engage in home learning. It is great to see so many photographs of the pupils on Twitter on a daily basis, displaying their hard work and amazing cake baking skills! Staff have also kept me well informed as to the numbers of pupils that are engaging with the online materials. We welcome feedback from parents on any issues or concerns that they have. If you are encountering any issues with regards lack of I.T. Hardware i.e. laptop/computer/tablet or do not have access to WiFi then please get in touch with us via email if possible or leave a message on the school answer phone – press 1 to report your child’s absence. We will try to put some support in place.

**Transition**

This term is a particularly important one for Year 6 Pupils. It is also usually the busiest terms as they engage in numerous transition activities with their chosen comprehensive schools. It is looking very unlikely that any transition events will be held in light of the current restrictions and so Mr. Marchant and Mrs. Harris from YBB will be setting up Flipgrid, which will allow pupils to ask any questions that pupils may have. They will also be creating information booklets, which will be available on Flipgrid. Ysgol Cwm Brombil are also in the process of creating an information booklet which will be sent out via post.

**Potential Re-opening of Schools**

Boris Johnson announced earlier this week that schools in England will be opening on June 1st. Thankfully, Mark Drakeford, the First Minister for Wales has stated that this will not be the case in Wales. It appears that we in Wales will have sensible, rationale debate before any decisions are made. Yesterday, I spoke to NPT Head of Schools to discuss the feasibility of re-opening at a future date. Concerns were shared and duly noted. Virtual meetings will take place on a weekly basis. I am sure that you will all have your own personal views on when and how pupils should return to school but for me the priority is the safety and wellbeing of pupils, staff and the local community.

Education in Wales is devolved to the Welsh Government and last week the Education Minister, Kirsty Williams set out her five key principles for schools’ return:

1. The safety and mental, emotional and physical wellbeing of students and staff
2. Continuing contribution to the national effort and strategy to fight the spread of COVID-19
3. Having the confidence of parents, staff and students – based on evidence and information – so that they can plan ahead
4. Ability to prioritise learners at key points, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds
5. Consistency with the Welsh Government’s framework for decision making, to have guidance in place to support measures such as distancing, managing attendance and wider actions

As we receive guidance from Welsh Government and our Local Authority, I will keep you updated with this.

In the meantime, enjoy the glorious sunshine, keep safe and stay well!

Regards,

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**David Burrows**

**Headteacher**

**Blaenbaglan Primary School**

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