

Dear Parent, Carer or Guardian,



Hope you are all well and had a reasonable half term. Very strange to be in a “Fire Break” during that week. We are back in full flow once again and we are gearing up for Christmas. This year we unfortunately will not be able to have the Christmas concert in the hall. However, we as staff all agreed that we would certainly celebrate Christmas and we will be doing Virtual Christmas concerts. We are trying to work the logistics to this and will share the information once we have the plans in place. Christmas Dinner Day will also go ahead and we are planning on having this on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December. All children whether dinners or packed lunch will be in the hall in their class bubbles for an allocated session. Again I’ll share information with you once we’ve completed the assessments. That day will also be a Christmas Day here at Gnoll where pupils will enjoy the experience of a festive day with parties and Christmas jumpers.

### Staff Changes.

Mrs Taylor and Mrs Parfitt are currently unable to come into school and are working from home for the foreseeable future. Due to their pregnancy this is a precautionary measure. Miss A. Newbury will be starting with us next Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November and will be covering for the foreseeable future. I’m sure you will all give her a warm Gnoll welcome. Mrs L. Thomas has moved into the class to support the transition for all.

### Clwb Amadani

In the next few weeks we are looking to start a new after school club called “*Clwb Amadani*” which translates to Go for it Club. The Clwb Amdani is by invitation only and will run after school from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. Children will be selected to attend and will be asked to attend for the duration of the club. (Between 8-10weeks). This is a privileged club and will allow us to work with children who need some extra support. Further details will follow as we are still processing data to allow us to create a bespoke programme for these children. I hope I can count on you for support and will work with us for the best interest of your child. I am very excited about this venture and hope that this will be another wonderful partnership we can develop with pupils, parents and the local community.

### Latest Updated information regarding guidance for schools.



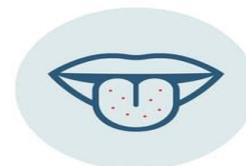
**HIGH  
TEMPERATURE**



**NEW  
PERSISTENT  
COUGH**



**LOSS OF  
SMELL**



**LOSS OF  
TASTE**

- Staff member or pupil got symptoms of COVID-19? Don’t attend the school. Stay home and self-isolate, arrange a COVID-19 test and notify the school.
- Family/household member got symptoms of COVID-19? Don’t attend the school. Stay home and self-isolate.
- If your child’s test comes back positive, please let us know as soon as possible via phoning the school or emailing. Please do not send your children to school if they or any other household members have any of the following symptoms: temperature, persistent cough and/ or loss of taste and smell. If one of your children has any of the above symptoms please ensure all siblings stay home until you have contacted 111. Thank you for your support with this procedure; to date this communication between

A reminder that there is a dedicated email address that is checked daily, including weekends, if one of your children should test positive for coronavirus. This email should only be used for positive test results amongst our pupils and not family members.

It is: [covid.gnollprimary@npt.gov.uk](mailto:covid.gnollprimary@npt.gov.uk).

Thank you for the continued support regarding the drop off and pick up plans. Please keep your children with you when on the yard and maintain the 2 metres social distancing rule. Welsh Government guidelines state that you do not need to wear a mask on the yard. However if the 2m social distancing cannot be adhered to then you must. Being outside in the fresh air also helps. If you feel the need to wear a mask then please do. I have no objection in people wearing masks especially at this current time.

### **Dinner Arrears**

The number of dinner arrears is increasing significantly with us at school. Could I ask if you have arrears with payment that you clear your debt. The payments should go through Parent Pay however if you have difficulty paying through the online service please contact the school office. If you have accumulated a substantial debt through arrears then you will need to supply your child/children with a packed lunch until this arrears is paid off. Again if you have issues with the payments please contact the office.

### **Parents Evenings**

Feedback that I have received from staff has been very positive. All of my teachers have shared the autumn topic information and class routine by letter to parents or the website. Before half term, instead of the usual open evening sessions when you would normally be invited in to the class. Parent's evenings took place via a phone call at an agreed time with yourselves. Keeping in touch regarding your children's progress regularly is really important to us.

### **Reading Books**

We recently received information regarding Reading books. Reading books will be given to your child/children on a Monday and will be returned the next Friday. They will be placed into a box with a lid by your Child and left there for the weekend. On Monday staff will then wipe down the books and redistribute to the children for that week. No parent will be allowed to place into the box and please do not hand them to the staff on duty. Your child will need to carry and bring the reading books into school. It will be imperative that books are returned on Friday to allow 72 hours between staff touching them and handing them back out to other families.

Also, please could you look around your home to see whether there are Oxford Reading Tree books in your home. We are down a considerable number since lockdown. Thank you in advance for looking.



### ***Children in Need***

At Gnoll Primary, we are always keen to celebrate our unique differences, which make us all special. On Friday 13th November, we will be raising awareness of the needs of others less fortunate than ourselves. Children are invited to wear a rainbow themed non-uniform to support the idea that we are all different. (If children wish to wear their uniform, they can. There is no pressure to dress up!)

If you wish to donate £1 towards 'Children in Need', you may do so through ParentPay - this is optional and not compulsory! We look forward to celebrating our diversity!

### ***Dates for the diary:***

Below are lists of important dates for your diaries.

26 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	-	Half Term week
2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2020	-	INSET DAY
13 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	-	Children in Need Day
10 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	-	Whole school Christmas Dinner Day
18 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	-	Last day for pupils of Autumn Term
21 <sup>st</sup> December 2020	-	INSET DAY
22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2020	-	INSET DAY
4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	-	Start of Spring Term
15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	-	Half Term Week
26 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	-	Last Day of Spring Term

12 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	-	First Day of Summer Term
31 <sup>st</sup> May – 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	-	Half Term Week
16 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	-	Last Day of School Year
2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021	-	Start of new school Year.

***NB dates will be added to this list as and when they are organised.***

### **Inset Days**

The last two days of this Autumn Term will also be Inset Days. ***Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December*** and ***Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020***. Three other Inset days will be in 2021.

Finally, can I thank you and your children for your continued patience and support. Please continue to follow the 2m social distancing requirements on the school sites. We are going to be having to keep some windows open in the school for ventilation, so it would be sensible for the children to wear 3 layers in class to help keep them as warm as possible for example a vest, t-shirt and jumper.

Stay safe everyone

*Rhys Harris*

Headteacher

**School Email:**  
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**School Website:**  
<http://gnoll-primary-school.j2bloggy.com/>

**Twitter:**  
@GnollPrimary