



24th March, 2021

Dear Parent, Carer or Guardian,

It has been lovely to see everyone back together again in school this past week. The weather has been kind and it has been lovely to see and hear the children back in school. They have settled in well and are so happy to see their friends. They are enjoying playing and learning with each other once again. Thank you all for being so supportive, kind and considerate to each other during drop off and pick up. We have endured and suffered a winter like no other and the pupils and you our parents / carers have been magnificent throughout. Diolch yn fawr.

I have been asked whether this Friday and the first Monday back after the Easter break are Inset Days. **They are not.** I have made the decision not to have these days as Inset Days so to allow pupils and yourselves to settle back into the school routines once again. We do have three Inset Days that will have to be taken before we end in July 2021. We have tried

Inset Days will be Monday 26th April, 2021, Monday 7th June, 2021 and Friday 16th July 2021.

Over the Easter Break please follow the guidance set out by Welsh Government. This is vital in the recovery and in us staying out of further lockdowns. Please continue to follow the guidance given which is that Wales is still at Level 4 alert.

You must:

- Stay Local
- Work from home if you can
- Wear a face covering where required
- Wash your hands regularly
- Stay 2 meters from anyone you do not live with.

You must self-isolate if you or anyone in your household has symptoms.

As a precaution if your child has any of these new symptoms, they should get a test.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature: this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough: this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste: this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Red Nose Day

We celebrated Red Nose day through the pupils wearing colourful clothes. Thank you for your support and we managed to raise £114.00

World Book Day

For World Book Day this year we managed to have a virtual story telling session and all the pupils enjoyed listening to the stories being read. Mrs. Coleman also did a bedtime story which was a huge success. Once again thank you for your support. We value the reading of stories and the children really enjoy being read too.

St David's Day

At Gnoll Primary, we are always extremely keen to celebrate St. David's Day – 'Dydd Gyŵl Dewi'. Even though learning from home made this year's celebration a little bit different, it was still very special! Children took part in a Welsh week filled with Welsh challenges, helping us to celebrate all things Welsh. Children at Gnoll Primary created Welsh dragons, rugby jerseys, wrote poems and even took part in their very own St. David's Day Bake Off. All pupils' work was entered into their class Eisteddfod! Well done and thank you to everybody for all of your hard work and commitment to our Welsh week's celebrations! The standard of work was fantastic!

Gwaith ardderchog! Excellent work!

Visit by Bee1

Mr M Douglas provided the Year 4 pupils with an engaging workshop where the pupils learnt all about how to encourage wildlife into our school premises. The pupils had plenty of opportunities to share their prior knowledge with Mr Douglas and to ask questions to develop their understanding. Mr Douglas also demonstrated to the students how to create 'bee bombs' which we are going to incorporate into our learning journey for the Summer Term. The children are extremely excited to take on new approaches on how to encourage various wildlife into our home and school environment. With thanks to Mr Douglas, our children will now have a consistent relationship with a member of our community to see the outcome of their wishes and plans for our school.

PDG Access Grant

Don't forget to apply for the PDG Access grant for pupils who are eligible for free school meals entering Reception, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 classes of maintained Primary Schools in September 2020. It can help with the purchase of school uniform including coats and shoes, school sports kit including footwear, uniform for enrichment activities, including but not limited to, scouts; guides; cadets; martial arts; sports; performing arts or dance. It can also be used for equipment e.g. school bags and stationery, equipment for out of school hour's trips such as outdoor learning e.g. waterproofs and also, the criteria has been extended to include laptops or tablets. Please visit <https://www.npt.gov.uk/1316> to find out if you are eligible and how to apply.

Dates for the diary:

Below are lists of important dates for your diaries.

- | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| • 26 th March 2021 | - | Last Day of Spring Term |
| • 12 th April 2021 | - | First Day of Summer Term |
| • 26 th April 2021 | - | Inset Day |
| • 31 st May - 4 th June 2021 | - | Half Term Week |
| • 7 th June 2021 | - | Inset Day |
| • 15 th July 2021 | - | Last Day for school pupils |
| • 16 th July 2021 | - | Inset Day |
| • 16 th July 2021 | - | Last Day of School Year |
| • 2 nd September 2021 | - | Start of new school Year. |

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

Free School Meals

Please be aware that Free School Meal payments have now stopped. The school is currently accumulating a large amount of money owed for the school dinners. This needs to be payed and as such this is a gentle reminder to parents

to remind you that if your child is having a school dinner then this needs to be paid for. If you have still not set up a 'Parentpay' account and have any issues in doing so, please contact the school office so we can assist you

School Garden Area

Images created by Mr Mike Newman from the natural Play Company

This is being transformed into an area which will support Forest schools activities. The aim is for each staff member at school to be trained to level 2 in Forest schools. There will be others trained up higher as is needed. We have had discussions with various people both internally within NPT and external companies. We have had plans drawn up. (Shown above). This is not the final draft but I felt compelled to share with you our vision for this area. In here there will be a fire pit, log storage hut, planters and various other things. I hope this work will start in the very near future.



The School Allotment Area: (School Playing Field)



The aim here is to transform part of the school into becoming an area where pupils will be given opportunities to research, plant and grow various fruit and vegetables. Each class will be responsible for preparing, growing and producing vegetables or fruit which will then be sold to our families and/or the local community via our Farm Shop. Pupils will be responsible for the organisation of the shop and we hope to work with local businesses to stock their produce at the shop. For example Bee1 and Morrison's and Tesco to name a few. This is still in development stage and this is by no means a done deal. However, I firmly believe that this area will be fundamental; in the restore, repair and reengagement needed for our families, community and more importantly our pupils. With the isolation that we have felt over the past year and with the

need to start growing our own vegetables due to Brexit, I feel this is an opportunity to give something back to our community. Imagine the children using their own produce, creating a soup and serving it for a small fee to people within our community who could sit and enjoy a nourishing soup whilst socially reconnecting with each other as well as having some fresh air. The produce sold will be at a nominal fee and will allow families to buy healthy local produce. This will support some of our families who have fallen on challenging times over the past year. Images created by Mr Mike Newman from the natural Play Company I hope this letter has given you some hope of better times here in Neath, I'm sure with the vaccination programme we will return to a more normal time once again. We as a school are proud of you and of our achievements over the past year. We continue to develop links with the community and value our local businesses. If you know of or have contacts to these companies please let us know. These continue to be difficult times, and I am reassured that our community remains resilient, understanding, and supportive.

Here's to a well-deserved, healthy and calm Easter break.

Rhys Harris

Headteacher

School Email:
gnoll@school.net

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

Twitter:
@GnollPrimary