

Annwyl Rieni/Dear Parents,

On behalf of everyone at Lfor Hael I would like to send you all our best wishes and sincerely hope that you are all managing to stay safe under the current circumstances. All our staff are missing each and every one of our pupils and are looking forward to the day when we can revert back to operating as normal again. The Bank Holiday weekend weather was great and so I hope you all managed to celebrate a little, in memory of VE Day 75 years ago and restore some sort of wellbeing, so vital in these times.

COVID-19 and School Closure Update

We are now in the seventh week of school being closed to pupils, and albeit under unprecedented circumstances, I am sure that by now you have all been able to establish a routine of learning, working, and supporting each other at home in the best way possible. You may already be aware of the latest news from the Welsh Government around the developments of school closure and the proposals for a safe re-opening. All Welsh schools will follow this guidance very closely and any updates will be shared with you in due course. Please also be mindful that decisions on Education matters within Wales are made solely by the Welsh Government and may differ to what may be happening within the school system in England, where decisions are made by central Government (Westminster).

At present, Kirsty Williams has set out five guiding principles which will determine when and how schools will return to providing education for most school pupils. She has also recently published a framework for the next phase of education and childcare: considerations, planning and challenges: <https://gov.wales/written-statement-publication-decision-framework-next-phase-education-and-childcare-considerations>. The Minister for Education has said that any decision to change the operation of schools will be shared well in advance with everyone. The Welsh Government, Local Authority and the School are aware of the ongoing challenge of COVID-19 and we will be preparing for a range of scenarios around school opening while keeping you informed, as parents, as best we can at the appropriate time without adding to your concerns and worries.

Home Learning

I want to pass on my thanks to you all for the efforts you're making to support your children with the home learning prepared for them by teachers via Google Classroom - a task I am certain that is not always easy to do. I mentioned wellbeing above and it is really important to me in these times that our pupils remain safe, happy and well. We remain extremely eager to support you in any way, but I am very grateful for everything you are trying to do through your positive engagement with the distance learning. I'm told by the teachers how well the children are doing, and it is really good to hear and see their efforts on each and every Google Classroom. While this kind of learning will never be the same as being in school, our pupils will return supported by your efforts and we will be able to pick up the baton of their schooling and continue their educational journey when the time is right.

With the Whitsun holiday approaching, parents, children and teachers deserve a week off from the hard work they have all been doing. So, between 25th of May to Friday 29th of May, no activities will be set for the week. The home learning will continue again the week after half term. If your child has been accessing the Hub childcare provision at Monnow, this will be running for children as usual.

If you have any problems with accessing Google Classroom or for any hints, tips or advice from the class teacher, please email ysgifo@newport.gov.uk. Teachers are communicating regularly with their classes through the 'stream' in Google Classroom, so please use this function regularly.

We will continue to update you via Schoop with any links to important information so I kindly ask you that you please check and respond or you may miss something important.

Can I thank you all for your continued support at this difficult time and please, stay safe and look after each other.

Cofion gorau / Kind regards,

Bethan Parry-Jones
Pennaeth /Headteacher