

**Aberdare Town Church in Wales Primary School**

**Ysgol Gynradd Eglwys y Dref Aberdâr**

**Spring Term – Newsletter – Friday 12th February**

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are already at half term. It has been such an unusual time but I am so glad to see that the days are stretching out, with lighter morning and evenings. Spring will soon be with us, and with it, hopefully brighter and better times.

 **UPDATE ON RETURN TO SCHOOL**

As you are all aware, Foundation Phase pupils will be returning to school from Monday 22nd February. All parents may access the letter confirming these arrangements on the school website [www.aberdaretownchurchprimary.co.uk](http://www.aberdaretownchurchprimary.co.uk)

We can’t wait until the time when our doors can be open to the pupils in Key Stage 2 and are so disappointed that they will not be returning yet. However, if the data continues to move in the right direction, if everyone keeps following the guidance by staying safe, then we may well find that school will open on a wider basis sooner rather than later. However, it is too soon to speculate on what may happen but as soon as I know any information or developments, I will inform you.

If anyone has any queries about the reopening of school, please do not hesitate to contact us. School will be closed for the half term period and will reopen on Monday 22nd February. A reminder also that our next INSET day is **Friday March 26th** when school will be closed for some on-site staff training.

**SCHOOL MEALS**

Hot lunches will now be available at school as usual for pupils in Foundation Phase. The price for school meals is £2.55 per day. Payment is now online – details on how to pay are on the school website and you will shortly be notified by email and text of your individual payment code. If you have any queries relating to this, please contact us at school.

**Breakfast Club** is available for those of you that have been given a place by the local authority. If you are unsure about this, please contact us at school and we will be able to help you.

**EMERGENCY PROVISION AT SCHOOL – KEY STAGE 2**

Following the half term break, school will remain open for the children of key/critical workers and those identified as vulnerable in Key Stage 2. The school is here to support you and if you need to speak to us about this provision please do not hesitate to telephone us. A reminder of the RCT criteria for key/critical workers is below:

* ***Health and social care workers (including care home staff).***
* ***Public safety (emergency workers) and national security workers.***
* ***Education and childcare workers.***
* ***Food and other necessary goods workers (please note this is an additional category)***

***Please ensure that you contact school by 4.00p.m every Monday to book provision for the following week. This is imperative in allowing us to make the necessary arrangements. Thank you.***

**Themed Weeks**

Immediately following the half term break there will be two ‘themed’ weeks at school and online. The first week will be **‘Telling a Joyful Story.**’ This is our Diocesan Vision and each class will be undertaking a variety of activities related to this theme. During half term it will be Ash Wednesday (17th February), the start of Lent. We normally mark this special day with a service at school where Father Robert marks our heads with ash. We are so disappointed that we will be unable to do this at this time. We will post a reflection/worship on Twitter for Ash Wednesday which you may like to share with your child/family.

Please remember that the day before is Shrove Tuesday – I hope that everyone will be making pancakes!

***NB: Father Robert is now live streaming church services on the parish facebook page ‘ Parish of Aberdare.’***

The following week will be our ‘**Wythnos Cymraeg’ - Welsh Week**. This week will start on **Monday March 1st, Dydd Gwyl Dewi** itself! We invite everyone, whether in school or at home, to wear a traditional Welsh costume/ rugby/football shirt on that day. There will be a variety of competitions taking place that week. Key Stage 2 pupils will be able to find all the details on Teams that week.

We are really looking forward to our themed weeks and hope that you enjoy them too.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to you all for your support this term. I know that I say it in every newsletter, but it means so much to myself and the staff at the school. These are difficult and challenging times for all of us, but there is great comfort in our Town Church family, always someone to listen and always someone to help.

I hope that you are all able to take some ‘off screen’ time next week and hopefully there will be some sunshine for us to enjoy. Your children have been amazing, the way they have engaged at home and those who are in school have been fantastic. They are our superheroes who inspire us every day and they do that because they have the support of wonderful families. Thank you all.

I look forward to seeing you soon,

Yours sincerely,

M.C.Werrett

Mrs. M.C. Werrett

Headteacher

