



Dear Parent/ Carer,

I hope you are all well and enjoyed a peaceful and happy Christmas; it's certainly been a very strange one for us all this year.

The situation in Wales is very concerning and Neath Port Talbot COVID infection rates are still very high. As a result instead of welcoming the children back through the gates this week, we find ourselves closing them once again, something that we do very reluctantly.

We are having to react very quickly to Welsh Government announcements at the moment which are changing on a daily basis, but our main priority as always is to ensure that our pupils and staff are safe and provide as much support as we can. The Government announced today that schools would remain closed until the next COVID review on the 29th January.

Since the first lockdown we have worked very hard with the pupils to develop their skills in using the Welsh online learning platform Hwb. Pupils spent a lot of time during the autumn term accessing Hwb and sharing work with their teachers and each other in order to prepare for any future disruption to classroom learning.

During this period of school closure, junior teachers will be providing regular feedback and support throughout the week to pupils using this platform. To ensure the infant pupils can also share work and receive regular feedback from their teachers we are going to introduce Class Dojo. This is a simple app that enables you to have a regular dialogue with the class teacher and share your child's learning. Please look out for more information regarding this early next week.

In the meantime you can expect from us:

- Weekly home learning lessons issued every Monday that will be a combination of Hwb based activities for junior pupils that can be shared with the class teacher for feedback and support and learning activities for younger pupils that can be carried out at a pace that suits your child and can be shared with the class teacher via Class Dojo.
- We will provide video clips of the staff that will include explanations, stories and short sessions to support the learning sent home that can be played and replayed at times that are convenient for you, especially if you are working from home and have siblings who are sharing devices. This we feel is a more effective way of engaging the children and enables them to access their learning at a time that suits you. Staff will be starting to make recordings next week to send out to you.
- We will provide wellbeing support in the form of weekly assemblies to each class in the form of video clips which will include follow up activities that can be shared either via Hwb or Class Dojo.
- We will provide resources and website links that will be useful to support the learning.
- There will be a staff presence at school every day if you need to contact us for any advice, to discuss the learning or to request resources.
- We can provide paper, pencils, pens etc if you do not have access to these resources at home, please let us know.
- There is no plan to shut the school completely and return to a Hub style provision in Glynneath; so the school will be your first point of contact if you need to discuss anything

throughout this period. We have installed an additional phone line to ensure you have access to school staff.

- We will provide staff Hwb emails for you to share learning and receive feedback. Year 2- Year 6 pupils have access to the Hwb where you will find all of the Microsoft Office programmes free of charge and safe to use; their log in details are in their KIT books.
- Pupils from Year 2- Year 6 have TT Rockstar log in details and can continue practising their times tables daily using this interactive programme.

It is important that during this time the children continue to have routine and we would ask that you encourage your children to engage with their learning each day. We understand that home is not the classroom and that you also have your own commitments and pressures, especially if you are working from home, going out to work and caring for relatives. Remember we are here to support and help you and we'll do all that we can to help you get through this time until we are reunited again back at school.

Thank you for your amazing support; we are very grateful for your encouragement and kindness throughout this very challenging time. We are committed to working very closely with you as a school community to ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Sam Sharp