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Tuesday 2nd of June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It still seems very strange to be writing to you without having your children in and around the school learning, playing and enjoying themselves. Hopefully you are all keeping safe and well.

I hope that the boys and girls have enjoyed their week off their work, but it's time to crack on again with our distance learning programme. I hope that the boys and girls will keep on trying hard with their work while having a balance of taking breaks, for their own and the family's wellbeing, when it's needed. If you have any problems with accessing the work or for any hints, tips or advice from the class teacher, please email melinprimary@npt.school.

Schools in England have started to re-open to limited year groups this week. However, as I mentioned in my previous letter to you, education and schools are the responsibility of the Welsh Government and so we follow the rules that Mrs Kirsty Williams (MS and Minister for Education) and Mr Mark Drakeford (MS and First Minister of Wales) set out, so we are not following the same re-opening times as England. I'm led to believe that on Wednesday (or some point this week), Kirsty Williams will make an announcement in which she will share when and how schools will return to providing education for school pupils in Wales. As you can imagine, we are busy as a school behind the scenes planning for all eventualities and, when we know what the Minister announces, we will firm up our plans and then let you know what we propose will happen, when it will happen and for which pupils.

Can I thank the parents who replied to the questionnaire expressing their views on schools re-opening. It has been very helpful and informative. As a school, we want to be able to welcome the pupils back in the safest way possible and to reassure you as parents that we will be following the medical and government guidance closely and making sure that Melin Primary School is as safe as it can be for you, my staff and most importantly, the children. These are uncertain times, being a father myself I know how concerning the thought of your children going back to school may be for you. Please remember this is natural – you will have questions and things you'd like to know more about. We'll communicate our plans and go through things in as clear a way as possible so you can have confidence when the time comes for a return.

We will continue to update you via text message with a link to important information so I kindly ask that you please do check and respond to school messages or you may miss something important. You can also check our Twitter feed @melinprimary.

Can I once again thank you all for your continued support at this difficult time and please, if you need us or want to provide feedback to us, get in touch by email at melinprimary@npt.school.

Yours Sincerely,

T. Richards
Headteacher

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

'Motivating, Engaging, Learning, Inspiring, Nurturing'

