



Headteacher: Mr. T. Richards B.Ed (Hons) NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. D. Harris B.Ed (Hons)
Address: Mile End Row, Melincryddan, Neath, SA11 2ED
Telephone and Fax: (01639) 645414
Email: melinprimary@npt.school www.npted.org/melinprimary

Wednesday 8th of July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we enter the final week of the academic year it brings to a close what has been a difficult year for the school and our families. Unfortunately, there is still uncertainty about how the COVID-19 virus will continue to affect our lives in a whole range of ways over the next few months.

It is anticipated that on Thursday, the Welsh Government Minister for Education will publish her plans for September which, along with the Local Authority guidance, will shape what education in Wales will look like in September. When it is published, the school will look at the guidance and act then to get as many pupils as we can following this guidance, **in as safe a way as possible**, back into school. We don't know how many children it will be at one time yet, we don't know yet how much of the week it will be for, but what we do know is that it has benefitted the children to be back in school.

I hope to be able to write to you again early next week with information about how we will be operating in September to give you the opportunity to ask questions which I will aim to answer as honestly and accurately as possible given that we are seeing a rapidly changing picture.

The school will be closed on Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd of September for INSET to enable staff to undertake training but also to ensure the learning environments are ready for the pupils who are returning to school. Next week will be the final week where new distance learning will be set for **this** academic year. If your child hasn't completed the work set, you are still able to access it if they'd like to catch up.

Can I remind parents that if they are having difficulty accessing the online work, please get in touch with us at the school. It may be that passwords aren't working, you need to check a website address or it maybe that the home laptop has finally give up and you need to loan a chromebook – please, get in touch. We can help!

Parents whose children are going into Reception or into Year Three in September will be provided this week with a link to a short video which replaces the usual 'meeting for parents' that we traditionally hold. If you have questions following the video, please email the school at the address at the bottom of this letter.

Each day next week, Reception to Year 5 children, if they are in school, will have the opportunity to have a 'Teams Meeting' with their new class teacher for September so that they can meet them and get to know them ready for September. It's a good way for them to find out about each other while still protecting our 'bubbles'. If your child is not in school, they will be provided with photos of the new classroom and other information next week. Year Six pupils will be receiving a letter from Cefn Saeson during the summer holidays and another video from them shortly.

Next year, there will be a split class in the school with next year's Year Three children either being in a straight Year 3 class or the mixed Year 3-4 class. If your child is currently in Year 2, Year 3 in September

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and **you have not** had a phone call from Mrs. Harris to explain that your child is going into the split class, it means that they are in the **straight** Year 3 class.

The class and staff structure for next year will be as follows:

Year Group	Teacher
Nursery	Mrs. D. Harris
Reception	Mrs. L. Jeremy
Year One	Mrs. B. Burge
Year Two	Mrs. N. Davies (three days) and Miss L. Richards (two days)
Year Three	Mrs. R. Davies (three days) and Miss L. Richards (two days)
Year Four	Mrs A. Asquith (four days) and Mrs. A. Cameron (one day)
Year Five	Miss D. Cooze
Year Six	Mrs. S. Cooke

I'm sorry to say that Miss Parkhouse will be leaving us at the end of the term after working with us for two years in Melin Primary School. We're sorry to see her go, but thank her for all her hard work with the boys and girls in Year Four during her time with us. However, we will be welcoming back Mrs. R. Davies (Year 1) from maternity leave next week and, in September, Mrs. Asquith from her Welsh sabbatical. I'm also pleased to announce that Miss L. Richards will be job-sharing next year with Mrs. R. Davies and Mrs. N. Davies. Miss Richards has worked really well with the children in Year One this year and I know that she can't wait to join us again in September.

Annual reports to parents have been completed by the teachers and will be able to be collected from the main school office on each site on the following days from 9 am until 3.30 pm. We've had to stagger the days to ensure that we don't have too many people calling at once.

Day	Collect from the Foundation Phase Office	Collect from the Key Stage Two Office
Monday	Nursery	Year Three
Tuesday	Reception	Year Four
Wednesday	Year One	Year Five
Thursday	Year Two	Year Six

As I mentioned above, I hope to be able to write out again to you early next week with our response to the Minister's plans for September. I appreciate your understanding that, as a school, we can only do what we are guided and instructed to do by the Minister and the local authority.

Can I once again thank you all for your continued support at this difficult time and please, if you need us, get in touch by email at melinprimary@npt.school or ring 01639 645414.

Yours sincerely,

T. Richards
Headteacher

