



# Llangewydd Junior School

Headteacher: Mr N. Clode; Deputy Headteacher: Mrs L Evans; Assistant Headteacher: Mr D Evans;  
ALNCo. : Mrs T Porter; Senior Leadership Team: Mrs J Davies & Mrs W Mitchell

November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020

**Annwyl Rieni/Gwarchodwyr,  
Dear Parents/Carers**

Welcome back. We are very much looking forward to the half term ahead where we hopefully make further strides towards the provision of a normal curriculum.

## **Feedback from the term so far:**

I am delighted to report that our first half term of this academic year was extremely positive, given the prevailing circumstances. Your children have been an absolute credit to you with their positive attitude to daily school life and their enthusiasm for learning. Behaviour, both in class and on the yard at break-times has been exceptionally good and the adaptation by children to the 'Bubbles' approach has meant that we are able to operate this model effectively and robustly.

Each time I go into a classroom in school, teachers and support staff are working exceptionally hard to provide an engaging curriculum while adhering to guidance relating Covid-19 and it is often evident that the adults in our school prioritise the learning of children in their care over their own wellbeing. The work in pupil books is of a high standard and the assessments we have undertaken have been encouraging.

While not all parent consultations are complete, the feedback I have had from staff about parental comments has been extremely positive and this is in itself a testament to the hard work of staff.

## **Start and end of the school day**

I do not envisage any changes to the start and the end of day arrangements but this is subject to periodic review.

## **PE & Games lessons**

We hope that we be able to provide pupils in every class with PE and/or games lessons this half term, however communication about when to bring in PE kit and how to manage this process will occur on a class by class basis between the class teacher and yourselves.

## **Classroom Ventilation**

Some parents of pupils in our school have contacted me in the past day or so expressing concerns about this subject. I fully understand this and I promise this is a matter we take very seriously. We do have to find a balance between what we would normally do at this time of year (which would be to shut all windows and doors to stay warm) and what we are advised to do to suppress transmission of the virus by ensuring there is adequate ventilation in enclosed spaces. All schools in Wales are currently adhering to the following guidance from Welsh Government: **Operational guidance for schools and settings from the autumn term (version 3)** – Section 5 under 'Prevention' reads as follows:



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## **Ventilation**

*....where schools rely on natural ventilation including opening windows and doors to provide a supply of fresh air, this practice should continue to improve ventilation. It is however recognised that there will be a need to optimise the amount of fresh air entering a classroom whilst balancing this with thermal comfort (maintaining a reasonable temperature) and the risks associated with open windows. The Fire Safety Risk Assessment should always be reviewed before any internal doors are held open. Windows and doors do not have to remain fully open to obtain the levels of fresh air required to provide good ventilation, they can be partially opened. Staff may need to be advised how to achieve the most appropriate ventilation in any setting and should start by consulting the HSE guidance. Additional ventilation can be achieved by ventilating classrooms more fully between classes and uses. Whilst improving ventilation is a key control schools should continue to ensure that the wider controls of social distancing, personal hygiene and enhanced cleaning are implemented and maintained.*

This guidance, like all guidance, is open to interpretation. However, as with other challenges we have faced during this pandemic, we can best achieve the result we desire by working together; which was why I contacted parents over the weekend (given the windy weather forecast for Monday) so that consideration could be given to suitable clothing for pupils given the above guidance. My view was that possibly an extra under-layer or similar would make children more comfortable given we simply cannot do what we have always done at this time of year. Yesterday I visited all classrooms and spoke to every teacher about ventilation in their room and was satisfied that in all cases every effort was being made to ensure this balance was being met. Each day will bring a different set of conditions and each day we will need to try to find the right balance in each class throughout the day.

Please note that we ensure we always comply with Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 and that we have worked tirelessly (with the LA and our contractors Lorne Stewart) to remedy an issue with a boiler in the lower school, which is now fixed.

I like to take this opportunity to thank all parents, carers and grandparents who have been so supportive throughout this year. Your goodwill and understanding is always hugely appreciated and motivational.

Kindest Regards,

**Neil Clode**