



Llangewydd Junior School

Headteacher: Mr N Clode; Deputy Headteacher: Mrs L Evans; Assistant Headteacher: Mr D Evans;
ALNCo. : Mrs T Porter; Other senior leadership team members: Mrs J Davies & Mrs W Mitchell

January 7th 2021

Annwyl Rieni/Gwarchodwyr,
Dear Parents/Carers

Mr Layton Skilton

It is with much sadness I inform you that one of our governors, Mr Layton Skilton sadly passed away from Covid-19 over the Christmas period. Layton's children both attended our school and after they left we were so glad that Layton continued to serve our school as an LEA governor. He gave wise counsel, was sympathetic to the uniqueness of our school, while also being an unflinching and ardent supporter. He will be greatly missed by us all at Llangewydd.

Update on our current position

It is difficult to reconcile that we now find ourselves in another school closure situation. Last term we were luckier than most regarding the impact that the virus had on the learning of the children in our school, but obviously the situation has deteriorated since then and we now find ourselves in an ominously familiar position. There is however 'hope' on the horizon in the form of the roll out of the Covid 19 vaccine and I have no doubt that when we return to normality, we will all place an even greater value on the things that really matter to us. Until that time, please keep safe and let's ensure that we adhere to the appropriate guidance and legislation both in and out of school.

Home-school working

We are pleased with the response to our Home-School learning so far and appreciate the way in which you are supporting and encouraging your child in this. Online work is set by your child's class teacher every Monday, Wednesday and Friday via the Google Classroom platform. This is accessed through Hwb to which your child has the relevant login details. Our online provision seeks to achieve a balance between literacy, numeracy, topic and Welsh work. In addition to this, it is important that your child:

- regularly reads their 'Bug Club' books.
- completes their 'Lexia' and 'Reading Eggs' work (if they usually do this in school).
- completes their 'Big Maths' tests (if asked to do so by their class teacher).

If you are experiencing difficulties accessing Google Classroom, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher by e-mail or contact our technical support team at either DaviesJ250@Hwb.cymru.net or DaviesY43@hwb.cymru.net. We will always do our best to help and support you.



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In-school provision

On Wednesday this week we welcomed into school thirty or so pupils who meet the current criteria for provision eligibility. Following acceptance for schooling, parents and carers of these children received various texts from the school setting out the necessary arrangements for attendance. The pupils which are currently in school, are those pupils which:

- are deemed 'vulnerable' by the local authority, or
- are the children of critical workers; at the time of writing, in Bridgend, the local authority have deemed that a critical worker is defined as someone who works for one of the following organisations: Health, Social care, Fire and rescue service, Police, Ambulance service, Education (including working in kitchens or cleaning) and the prison service. (In two parent households, only one parent needs to be employed as a critical worker for their child to qualify for provision).

Please bear in mind that sending your child to school should be a 'last resort'. Bridgend, in particular, has an extremely high level of Covid-19, at present, and the purpose of closing schools is to minimise the transmission of the virus by preventing the school community from 'mixing'. My personal experience of organising the 'hub' at Maes-yr-Haul Primary (which catered for pupils throughout our cluster) last year was that while the vast majority of eligible parents only used the hub infrequently, as an emergency provision when all other options were exhausted, other parents used it when other options were demonstrably available to them. My fear is that the definition the local authority uses of what constitutes a critical worker, rightly or wrongly, will widen significantly to include many other eligible families. If that happens, and our provision is not seen as emergency only, we may end up defeating the purpose of school closures altogether. **Please do everything that you can to support us to avoid this from happening.**

Going forward

My own view is that school closures will last significantly longer than the current Welsh Government stipulations (which indicate a possible return to school on January 18th). I believe we are likely to see schools remaining closed until at least after February half term and possibly longer and we must prepare for this. While nearly all of you spoke to your child's class teacher last half term, I will shortly, ask all teachers to contact you again to see how they can support your child's learning further and to see if we can help in any other way. Many families receive regular phone calls from us and this will, of course, continue to be the case.

Kind regards,

Neil Clode



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