



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 & Miss Y Davies

4th February, 2022

Annwyl Rieni/Gwarchodwyr,
Dear Parents/Carers

School closure days for the rest of the year: February 18th, April 8th, May 27th and July 22nd.

Communication

Towards the end of the autumn term I became aware that (largely due to the Covid-19 situation) we were in communication so frequently with parents (through email, text, Twitter and phone calls) that there was too much information being exchanged to be properly processed and acted upon. As a consequence, we decided to only communicate essential information through our normal channels (excluding Twitter) in the short term. Hopefully this situation is changing, allowing us to communicate in a more normal manner, such as this newsletter.

Covid-19 update

We have experienced higher numbers of infection this term than at any time previously; this applies to both the pupil and adult populations in our school. In the past few weeks a number of classes have undergone the 7-day antigen testing approach as set out in the Welsh Government guidance. At times, we have struggled to operate all of our classes but owing largely to the goodwill and hard work of all of our staff (and with the support of our partner agencies) all classes have so far remained fully open.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for your support and diligence during these periods of intensive testing. It has been evident from the outset that most of our parents and carers feel a community responsibility for all our pupils and staff, and because of this we have been able to operate successfully so far. I am hopeful that this week saw the peak of our infections in school – let's hope so.

Pupil Voice

All of our pupil forums were operating effectively until last week when we made the decision to halt meetings across year groups until after half term. Prior to Christmas we appointed our pupil leadership team with Osian Hancock and Tomos Williams as Head Boy and Deputy Head Boy respectively and Erin Prosser with Sophie-Mai Roberts being the Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl, respectively. There have been limited opportunities for this group to demonstrate their leadership skills at this point but hopefully, when the Covid-19 situation improves further, this will change.

Our expectations for the rest of the academic year

We are hoping (and planning) for a much more 'normal' rest of the year. Unlike last year, we hope to hold **St David's Day** performances in person and face to face. This means that pupils will hopefully be able to



Llangewydd Junior School, Llangewydd Road, Bridgend, South Wales UK CF31 4JT
Tel: 01656 815530. admin.llangewydd@bridgend.gov.uk. www.llangewydd.co.uk



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 & Miss Y Davies

perform to their peers in their year groups rather than virtually, as was the case last year. Whole school gatherings indoors are unlikely to return for some time.

We are in the process of trying to arrange a **residential trip for year 6 pupils** locally. This endeavor is in its early stages but, if successful, it is likely to be an outdoor camping excursion where we will invite all year 6 pupils and there will be no cost to parents whatsoever.

We also hope to be able to hold a year 6 Leavers' Assembly in the manner we did prior to the pandemic. In line with most other schools, **we will not be hosting a Leavers' Prom (or similar) on school premises for the foreseeable future**, however parents and guardians are welcome to make their own off-site arrangements for such an event they wish. We hope to be able to return to school sports fixtures prior to the summer term. As to what our Sports Days will look like, it is too early to tell; this will depend largely on the practice adopted by other schools and the guidance of Welsh and local government. Where our risk assessments have allowed, we have been able to undertake some school trips during this academic year but we hope to build on this significantly as we move towards the warmer months.

Estyn

We have volunteered as a 'Pilot School' to be inspected under the new inspection framework. This does not mean that Estyn will choose to inspect us (from the pool of other volunteer schools) but we would dearly like to be able to celebrate with the inspectorate the wonderful work your children undertake daily.

Daily attendance

Unless a pupil attends school, or we are able to establish their whereabouts elsewhere, before 10.30am, we have to do 'something'. The obvious reason for this is that on very rare occasions, children leave their house of a morning and then don't arrive in school, triggering a significant safeguarding issue. The 'something' we do is often that I get in my car and I knock on the door of the non-attending pupil's house where I'm greeted by an embarrassed and apologetic parent/guardian. In the mean-time, Ms Jury has expended time and effort trying to phone the pupil's house (probably on multiple occasions) and my morning is similarly disrupted. Parents/guardians must let us know if their child isn't coming to school and to please do so before the start of the school day.

Thank you once again for your support.

Kind regards,

Neil Clode



Llangewydd Junior School, Llangewydd Road, Bridgend, South Wales UK CF31 4JT
Tel: 01656 815530. admin.llangewydd@bridgend.gov.uk. www.llangewydd.co.uk