



# Newsletter



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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!  
8/1/21

## **Are we in school? Are we not in school? What's happening???**

I can imagine that you are all as fed up as we are! If everyone followed the rules we wouldn't be in this position now. Today it was announced that schools cannot reopen until they see a drop in the infection rates. This means that education is now done remotely within the children's homes. School is open for children whose parents are key workers and those that are vulnerable. The list of key workers and what constitutes a vulnerable learner is published on the welsh government website and schools follow this as the guide. However, the advice from our local authority is that, at the moment, the safest place for everyone at the moment is home. If this cannot be managed by parents due to work/safety/mental health/domestic violence/ etc then school offers the building as the safe learning environment for these children.

**It seems highly likely that we will not be reopening until at least February half term.**

This means that remote learning will continue. We will continue to support all our families throughout this time. We know it is hard for you all and those that are working and trying to do the home learning with children as well must be tearing their hair out!

We are very mindful of each of your situations and we are working hard to make the home learning as easy as possible for you to manage with your children. We are finding ways to ensure there are times when the children do not need your help and will manage the learning with their teacher on HWB. This involves all sorts of clever ideas that this marvellous staff are coming up with at the moment. They are magic! Today I watched a video of a lesson and saw the children recording their answers to the teacher. It was lovely to see them on camera! It was a tearful moment but happy tears! I have been sent videos and recordings of children reading in all sorts of ways! It really is fantastic - thank you to our magical staff!

## Reading

During a staff 'meeting' this week we have come up with a problem. How do we teach your children to read without having them there in front of us so we can see the skills they are using and what skills they need to learn next. To give an example, an early reader learns to use the clues in the picture to help with some unknown words, so teacher will pause and will be watching for eye movement before prompts are given. Teaching a child to read at all ages in primary school is complex and teachers have spent many hours training to do this successfully for all ages and abilities.

**We all know that reading has to be of high priority for ALL children.**

We want to continue to teach your children well so we are making plans to do live reading sessions that teacher will lead with small groups of children on screen. Planning this has taken a lot of time and thought. We must make sure that the children and staff are safe and happy to be on camera, we have to consider behaviours and rules that are to be followed by children and staff conduct to adhere to the education workforce council. Policies and procedures are currently being drawn up.

On Monday of next week you will be sent a form to complete. You will need to complete this form and give consent if you wish your child to take part in these reading sessions. If you have any questions please contact us at school and we will be happy to hear your thoughts.



This is very new to us all and staff will need training as well as parents and children. We will be using a program called "Teams". Mistakes will be made I am sure but we will consider them as lessons to be learned not mistakes. We will master this together! I dare say we will all need a little patience and understanding along the way but we are here to support each other.

### **TV programmes for primary children**

CBBC are delivering lots of educational programmes for children which are very good apparently. Staff have looked at what they offer and agree that it is worth parents knowing that they are there. It does not replace the bespoke learning that teachers provide for the children as this is designed specifically for your child's level of learning and follows the relevant curriculum. However, the programs may be useful especially if parents need to focus on their own work for some time. It may keep the children occupied for a session or two and you wont feel guilty because they are educational programmes! Winner winner!

### **WELL DONE PARENTS!!**

I have to say well done to you all. The learning that I am seeing going on at your homes is absolutely amazing. This has not been easy for you! Considering we were thrown back into this situation so quickly you have reverted back to the online learning smoothly and easily. We did have lots of practise during the first lockdown but even so, you have adapted to all the new methods being sent to you. It is not all about being in front of the screen and seeing what your children are doing is just brilliant! It is my treat at the end of my working day looking through work that has been sent to me, watching videos of children reading and singing, and looking at the parents Facebook messages. Thank you! These children are fantastic because YOU as parents are doing a grand job! Parents never get a pat on the back so here is one from us. Well done everyone!