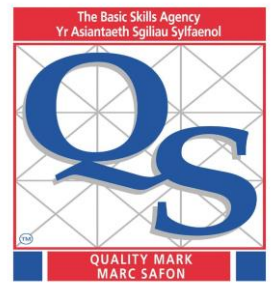


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19th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I want to say how grateful I am to the dedicated team of professionals at Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School who have shown resilience through this difficult period. We have all worked hard, often covering different roles, to ensure that school continues to operate as normal as possible. We have continued to operate a full and normal day, welcoming your children to school every day. However, we have now been informed by Welsh Government that all schools in Wales will close at the end of the school day on Friday 20th March.

We are living through unprecedented times and the situation remains fluid. At the current time we have no guidance as to when schools will reopen. I would urge you all to follow our school Twitter feed where I will post any updates as and when they become available.

Pupils from Reception to Year 6 will today bring home an exercise book where they are to complete all work at home. Nursery pupils have been provided with a pack of work to complete at home. All teachers will provide work for 'distance learning' via our SeeSaw communication app. On a Monday morning, before 10:30am, teachers will send a writing activity and maths activity for pupils to complete during the week. I would urge you to ensure that pupils complete the work in the books provided and that these books are returned to school when pupils return. This will allow teachers to assess the progress that has been made by pupils. In addition to this, pupils have access to Purple Mash and Mathletics. There are a wide range of activities on the platform for pupils to complete. Should the school closures last for an extended period then the amount of work provided for pupils will be increased. This information will be communicated to you via SeeSaw.

Attached to this letter are some ideas for distance learning including a thirty day Lego challenge and one hundred things to do at home. Of course, there are so many things that pupils can be doing at home to develop their learning through real life activities. Teach pupils to make a cake, tie their shoe laces, plant a seed, design a new game, etc. Remember, children learn a great deal through play!

I have instructed all staff to ensure that Friday is a fun day for all pupils in school. I want to give them the opportunity to forget all about what is going on in the outside world and simply enjoy being a child. With this in mind, tomorrow will be a non-uniform day for all pupils and staff.

The local authority is currently in the process of putting contingency measures in place to support parents who work in the Emergency Services, NHS and Social Care settings. If you work in one of these areas please contact the school so we can update our database. At this time, I am unable to clarify what these contingencies will be but the information you provide will assist with decision making processes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience, understanding and kind words during this very challenging time. The support we have received from parents and the community has been uplifting for all staff. Throughout this period please look after yourselves; the Coronavirus will pass, schools will reopen, and things will gradually return to normal. Where possible, enjoy family moments together, share a book and perhaps more importantly, a smile. Get out in the garden and enjoy listening to the birds, planting seeds and flowers together. Look after yourselves and each other.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C George

Headteacher