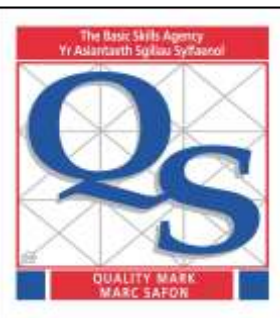




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4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian,

When I wrote to you prior to Christmas I promised to keep you updated with any developments from the Welsh Government over the Christmas break. As you will be aware from media reports, there have been a number of calls for schools to close given the impact the new variant of Coronavirus is having across the country. At the current time I am not aware of any proposal to fully close schools. However, this morning I have met with the Local Authority and they have made a decision that 'Blended Learning' will continue for this week with a further update to be provided by the end of the week. As such, teachers will continue to provide activities via Seesaw until Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

Provision will be available for eligible key worker childcare and vulnerable pupils from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021. If you have applied for a place then you will be contacted by telephone tomorrow morning and important information will be shared with you. I can confirm now that all pupils attending childcare provision will require a packed lunch as no catering facilities will be available on site. I also need to emphasise that childcare should only be used where all other avenues have been exhausted. Pupils attending childcare should arrive at school between 8:45am and 9:00am through their usual access gates. At the normal dismissal time, staff will bring pupils to the school gates. Parents should not access the school grounds until further notice. However, if you need to collect your child early from school you should telephone the school office to make the necessary arrangements. Please be aware that any child displaying symptoms of Coronavirus will be taken to the isolation room and will need to be collected immediately in line with our current arrangements.

The Local Authority will be writing out to all parents in Caerphilly later this afternoon with further information. Should any new information become available from Welsh Government or Public Health Wales I will of course update you as soon as I possibly can. However, it is extremely likely that you will have heard the information from the media before me.

I am currently in the process of updating our Risk Assessment and establishing which members of staff are available for work as we look at longer term measures. I need to remind you all again that despite all of the measures in place I am unable to guarantee a completely risk free environment

Finally, I wish you all a Very Happy New Year and thank you all for your continued support.

Mr C George

Headteacher  
Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School