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7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Once again we find ourselves in the middle of a National lockdown with school being asked to move to remote learning until at least the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Moving to remote learning does not mean that the school is closed. In fact it is quite the opposite at the current time with all staff being asked to attend to provide face to face learning for key workers and vulnerable children. As a result it means that teachers are not available to answer parental queries throughout the day as they are teaching those children who may be attending. If you are contacting your child's class teacher, please be patient and they will reply to you as soon as they are able to do so.

Throughout the pandemic, the well-being of everyone has been at the forefront of my mind. Home schooling children is a difficult task and as a parent myself I completely understand the challenges it poses. All of your efforts in supporting your children at home are greatly appreciated and please remember that if your child does not complete all of the activities that are sent home it doesn't matter. The important thing is that they do something each day to keep them in a routine. Remember to give your child regular breaks and where possible go for a walk with them as this can have a really positive impact.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents who have sent kind messages of support via Seesaw and to address some of the issues which have been raised. At the current time I have instructed teachers to provide one literacy, one numeracy and one topic based activity for pupils to complete on a daily basis. Should information be received from Welsh Government that all pupils will return to school on 18<sup>th</sup> January then these arrangements will remain the same for next week (11<sup>th</sup> January 2021) However, should there be an announcement that the lockdown will be extended beyond 18<sup>th</sup> January, then we will of course look at alternative arrangements. I am aware from comments received that a number of schools are providing 'live' lessons for children but at the current time I will not be asking staff to do this. There are a number of reasons for this decision including safeguarding concerns and the fact that it places additional pressure on parents to ensure children are on line at a certain time during the day. Instead, I will ask staff to produce instructional videos which children can watch whenever the need arises and can also be replayed to support further learning.

I am aware that not all children have access to devices such as Chromebooks, Laptops or iPads at home on which they can complete their work. If the lockdown is extended and school continues to be open only for key worker and vulnerable pupils, we will look at the possibility of providing printed packs / workbooks for children to complete at home. However, this will need to be carefully managed to ensure the number of people on the school site is kept to a minimum at all times.

If your child has a PlayStation or X-Box they are able to access HWB. Pupils have a username and password which enables them to connect to HWB where they can find a wealth of resources. I have sent a separate information sheet with instructions on how to connect to HWB using a PlayStation or X-Box device.

Mathletics is a resource we use in school which all children from Year 1 to Year 6 have access to. This is an excellent, user friendly, maths based website which enables pupils to develop their maths skills in a fun and engaging way. Your class teacher will have sent you information and the top 10 tips for using Mathletics with this letter. If you are unsure of your child's username or password please contact the school office.

We have received a significant number of applications for places at the Hub. Please remember that the Hub should be used as a last resort when all other childcare avenues have been exhausted. There is a strict set of criteria for Hub placement which must be met before a place can be allocated to a child. If the criteria are not met then a place will not be allocated.

I will continue to update parents as new information becomes available from Welsh Government or the Local Authority. I am hopeful that we will hear in the next couple of days when schools are anticipated to reopen to all pupils. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support through these challenging times.

Mr C George

Headteacher  
Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School