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Dear Parent / Guardian,

This morning, Kirsty Williams the Education Secretary announced that all schools would continue with remote learning until 29th January at which point a review will be held. If the number of positive cases of Coronavirus have not fallen significantly in that time then it is likely that remote learning will continue until February half-term. The move 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. Please remember that many staff also have families who they need to support too.

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 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. Following the announcement this morning we will look at the possibility of providing printed packs / workbooks for children to complete at home where access to a device is limited. 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 at home they are able to access HWB which is the digital learning platform for learning and teaching in Wales. Pupils have a username and password which enables them to connect to HWB where they can find a wide range of excellent resources. I have sent a separate information sheet with instructions on how to connect to HWB using a PlayStation or X-Box device. Through HWB, pupils have access to Microsoft 365 and are also able to download Minecraft Education for free.

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 school 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. Should school become aware that the Hub is being used inappropriately by parents then the place may be lost.

I will continue to update parents as new information becomes available from Welsh Government or the Local Authority. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support through these challenging times.

Mr C George

Headteacher
Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School