



# Ysgol Gynradd **Tycroes** Primary School

*Pontarddulais Road, Tycroes, Ammanford, SA18 3QD  
Pennaeth Dros dro / Acting Headteacher: Mr Stephen Thomas*

*Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020*

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are fast approaching the end of our first half term and are happy to see that we have been one of the very fortunate schools in Wales not to have had a positive case of Covid19 this half term. I would like to thank the staff for their efforts day in and day out in sticking to the guidance they have been provided, the pupils for working following the guidelines we have set them and yourselves as parents for working with us and supporting any changes and adjustments we have had to make. Thank you to you all.

## **INSET Day**

A reminder that there is no school for pupils **this Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020** due to a planned INSET day for staff to undertake training linked to our teaching of Pie Corbett Talk4Writing.

## **'Fire-breaker' lockdown**

The Welsh Government have announced yesterday a 'fire-breaker' lockdown for Wales. The big positive in what is a difficult situation at the moment is that school will be open after the half term, meaning we are looking forward to welcoming back all pupils on **Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020** as originally planned.

Please note, it is expected for all primary aged pupils to return to school after half term and schools are only required to provide home based learning for pupils having to self-isolate due to Covid19. Schools are not required to provide home learning for pupils who are kept at home by choice.

## **Parents Evening**

Parents Evening will be held over the first two weeks after the half term break. Foundation Phase will hold their parents evenings using Microsoft Teams where they will invite your child's HWB account to a meeting for you to attend. The children have been practicing to show you how to enter the meetings and we will be holding live tutorial sessions before the parents evening to show you how to access these. Key Stage 2 will hold their parents evenings via Telephone. The sessions will be held across the first two weeks back after half term.

A booking form will be shared by your child's class teacher on the school website. Once online, please contact the class teacher to select a day and time that best suits you.

## **Live Parent/Carer Tutorial Sessions – In the event of a class needing to self-isolate**

We will be holding live tutorial sessions with parents/carers to demonstrate how you can access live stream sessions with your child/ren's class teacher in the event a class would need to self-isolate after the half term break.

**Key Stage 2** parents/carers session will take place this Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 4.30pm via Google Meet. The children have been practicing how to log in and they will be encouraged to log in for you to bring you to the meeting. Mrs Rees has released a detailed letter outlining how to access this.

**Foundation Phase** parents/carers session will take place on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 at 4.30pm via Microsoft Teams in HWB. A how to guide will also be released to help you access the session.

**Rhif Ffôn / Telephone No:** (01269) 593253  
**Gwefan / Website:** [www.tycroes.amdro.org.uk](http://www.tycroes.amdro.org.uk)  
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## **Lunchtime Arrangements**

It has come to our attention that a few parents/carers have concerns around the current arrangements in place regarding the lunch time arrangements within the school. May we reassure you that we would not put any steps in place that place the children or school community at a significantly increased risk.

Currently we have multiple year groups in the school hall for dinner, where pupils sit in their class bubbles and each class has an at least two metre distance between each other. In the event a child tests positive in one of the bubbles, this does not mean all children in the hall would need to self-isolate. It would be highly unlikely pupils in the other classes would need to self-isolate as a result of the distance kept between the bubbles.

The rationale behind the change was a safety one and it falls within the guidance received from the Local Authority Risk Assessment which can be found on our website. With the previous measures, some children were in the hall and some in classes which requires a significantly greater number of staff to supervise. In order to ensure staff have their required lunch breaks and to ensure we can safely supervise pupils at lunch and on the playground we needed to move to this approach, which has been working well for the school operationally and for pupils safety.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding this, please contact me. I explained in my first newsletter that I work in an open and honest way and am happy to discuss concerns with you. Currently, I am seeing queries going directly to the Local Authority and Governors of the school, which is disappointing as I feel these are matters we can resolve through discussing them at a school level first. **Please see attached a complaints procedure I would respectfully ask we all adhere to moving forward.**

## **What do I do if my child becomes symptomatic over half term?**

1. In the event your child/ren becomes symptomatic outside of school hours, please contact **Delta Wellbeing immediately on 0300 333 2222.** School will automatically receive a notification of your call from Delta Wellbeing.
2. If a positive test is returned, please follow TTP advice. As a school we will continue to communicate to all parents in the event of a positive case. Please note, we would not mention any individual names in our communications relating to positives cases.
3. If a negative result is returned, we will ask for proof of the test before a pupil can come back to school after the half term break, so please keep the test results until at least Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.

We wish you a restful half term holidays and we look forward to seeing you all again after the break.

Best Wishes,

Mr Stephen Thomas  
***Acting Headteacher***

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