



Ysgol Gynradd **Tycroes** Primary School

*Pontarddulais Road, Tycroes, Ammanford, SA18 3QD
Pennaeth / Headteacher: Mrs Sally-Anne Watts BA(Ed)Hons, DipEd, NPQH*

Dear Parent/Carer,

May I welcome you all back to the Spring Term and take this opportunity to thank you for the kind wishes I have received during my absence. I would also like to thank Mr Thomas and Mrs Rees for their roles in leading and supporting the school in my absence.

There is some information that needs to be shared with you which I have outlined below.

Distance Learning

This morning, the Welsh Government have announced that distance learning will continue until at least the 29th January, and if Covid rates do not fall significantly over the next three weeks, then these arrangements will continue until half term. Many of you have responded to the questionnaire which asks you to consent to your child taking part in live streaming sessions with their teacher and class – thank you. This link is still live on the website and on Classlist if you haven't yet completed it. If consent has not been received then your child will not be able to access these sessions.

It is important to stress that online sessions will not be happening for the length of the school day. Sessions will be timetabled for 15-20 minute slots (this may be longer where appropriate in upper key stage 2 classes). The sessions will either be led by a teacher or teaching assistants and may involve whole classes or groups of children. Your child's classteacher will share the timetable for next week with you shortly so that you can plan ahead. The aim is that classes will be online at different times to allow for siblings to use the same device in the house. Sessions will be mostly based around 'check-ins' to support your child's wellbeing, but may also include reading groups, opportunities to listen to stories/sing songs, as well as some lesson content where appropriate. Some teachers may also choose to work with small groups to address common misconceptions and to provide feedback on completed tasks. The range is endless!

Alongside this, teachers will continue to set online tasks which can be accessed at your convenience. There may also be some sessions that teachers have recorded themselves, which again, can be accessed at your convenience.

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Provision for vulnerable children and children of critical workers

Pupils in these categories can receive provision **when absolutely necessary**. Parents/carers should only use this provision when there is no other safe option e.g. family, friends, ability to work from home, change working arrangements etc. **It should not be used, just because you might be eligible, but only when all other options have been exhausted.** Increasing numbers in the school further increases the risk to children and teachers. The Local Authority have now extended the list of critical workers (please see letter from the LA) and a new booking will be available from 12pm today and will close at 6pm this for next week's bookings. If you have already applied for next week and have been allocated a place, there is no need to re-apply – your place will remain.

Please be aware that myself and the Governing Body will review our risk assessments and the suggested safe capacity that has previously been issued by the local authority later today, and the number of children who can attend this education provision for critical workers and vulnerable learners will be based on this to ensure the safety of the children and the staff. This number will be reviewed when we receive further evidence regarding the transmission and infection rates of the new variant. There will be a priority list for places which will be applied in the case of applications which exceed our maximum capacity. **Application for a place DOES NOT guarantee that it will be granted.**

From 11th January, provision will run from 8:45am to 3:15pm and there will be no breakfast club provision. Children will also need to bring a packed lunch and snacks as there will be no catering staff on site. If you want to apply for the provision from the 11th of January to the 18th of January, please follow this link.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ug4_TzS3ZEGUCRtgHRR5k1dl794svU1Hi7DegyWwEp5UREk5WUIUNENPU0RMSIQ5NE9KVTVPN0IRTC4u

Finally, I appreciate that this is a difficult time for everyone and please be assured that we are all here to support you in the best way we can. If you have any concerns or queries, as always, please feel free to direct them to me and I will do my best to help.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Sally-Anne Watts
Headteacher

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