



01.06.2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back to the second half of the Summer Term. We hope that you are keeping well and safe. This letter provides you with updates and information regarding school developments and where we are at this period in time.

### Distance Learning Update

The Hwb platform which was recommended by Welsh Government has ensured a safe online environment for all. The Hwb classrooms are very successful, with a very high percentage of pupils accessing and engaging with these resources. Nursery families have been enjoying activities, songs and stories available to them from 'Cwtsh Mrs Morris' and the interaction here has been very positive also. At the start of lockdown we provided technology and laptops where required to support any pupil who could not access and participate in the distance learning and this has proved to be very successful.

Our teaching colleagues have ensured there is a balance of schoolwork, enriched tasks and life skills available on Hwb, tasks which are also cross-curricular. The Hwb Discussion area has provided the opportunity for pupils to engage with their peers and class teachers if they wish to do so. Staff respond regularly to tasks and discussions both via email and Hwb classrooms, which is a very positive direct and personal contact between staff and pupils. As we plan the next programme of activities for our pupils, teaching staff continue to look at ways of providing varied activities to ensure that pupils can interact if they wish to and that their Welsh language skills are being maintained. In addition to conversing with their peers if they wish to do so to complete tasks, there are many apps and programmes which could be used to ensure pupils hear and maintain a basic level of Welsh. You can help your children by encouraging them to engage in activities available through various media, e.g. listening to Welsh-language music, downloading Welsh-language apps, watching Welsh-language television programmes, or by using social media or digital technology to encourage them to use Welsh when speaking to friends and family. Bangor University has just made its Cysgliad software free to download; Cysgliad is a software package that includes the Cysill Welsh-language grammar and spelling checker as well as the Cysgeir collection of dictionaries and is a great tool for spellchecking and dictionary work. Cysgliad can be found on the Bangor University website ([www.bangor.ac.uk](http://www.bangor.ac.uk)). Hwb already has many Welsh language activities and all programmes may be accessed through the medium of Welsh or English. Further educational resources will be released over the coming weeks on Hwb, in addition to the resources currently available. Please also keep an eye on our Twitter feed and our regular stories and weekly assemblies on our school YouTube channel.

Our curricular provision will evidently change over time and discussions have already taken place as to making available pre-recorded instructions and information for pupils. This provision will continue to be monitored by senior leaders over the next few weeks and months, as it would if we were in school.

Staff are also completing pupil school reports based on progress up to the point of lockdown and these reports will be issued later this term.

### School Re-opening

We do not have a school re-opening date yet here in Bridgend or indeed in Wales. Kirsty Williams, Education Minister for Wales, has made it clear that re-opening will involve careful planning based on evidence and safety reasons. The latest information is that if and when we do re-open, that it will be a phased return over time, following local and government guidelines and procedures to ensure preparation time and confidence in all stakeholders to return. We do not yet know what this will look like, when this will start to be implemented or which year groups it will involve. As this is a new situation for us also, we ask that you allow us the time to work through these arrangements to ensure the best possible outcome for all. We appreciate your patience in this matter and will of course continue to communicate with you as this preparation progresses, in our usual open and honest manner.

### Family Wellbeing and Support

We again thank all parents/carers for your ongoing support. Please remember that there is no pressure to complete any or all tasks or work offered to pupils. You may not be in a position to complete all the tasks and activities, you may have other commitments, pupils may be attending the emergency childcare setting or you may have activities planned yourselves. Please do not be anxious or worry about this. We know that many of you are concerned about the impact of lockdown on education, but as professional educators please be reassured that we will address this over time. The wellbeing of yourselves and your children as well as our staff is our focus and priority, in what is a new, uncertain and stressful time for many. As we write this, lockdown measures are relaxing a little in that we are now able to visit another household outdoors while maintaining social distancing and good hand hygiene. This will come as a relief to many who are missing loved ones and friends.

We are in remote contact with many families and agencies during the school closure and anyone requiring further or regular support. As always, if there is any support or help that you require during this period of closure, please email the school admin address at [admin.broogwr@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:admin.broogwr@bridgend.gov.uk) and we will be in touch to provide any appropriate support that we can offer you.

To close, we would like to again say a huge DIOLCH to all members of the Bro Ogwr community who are supporting in any way you can, whether you are front line workers, volunteers or families supporting activities at home. Together we can support each other and we look forward to welcoming you all back at school as soon as it is safe and possible to do so.

With all our best wishes,

Sharon Jayne

Headteacher

Nik Dart

Chair of Governors