



03.07.2020

Dear Parents/Carers

This week has seen the school welcome many pupils back to school for their first 'check in, catch up and prepare' days. All pupils have had a successful and positive experience coming back to school for the first time since closing in March. School and classes look and operate very differently and a huge thank you goes to all of our pupils; they truly have been a credit to you and have taken the new environment in their stride. Thank you of course to you also as parents and carers for preparing your children for the return to school and for complying with our new site arrangements. There are many pupils who are still to attend their first day next week and we look forward to welcoming them. If any parent/carer whose child has missed the first day would like them to attend the second day, please contact the school to confirm the second day visit and we will of course accommodate them.

#### School Reports

End of year reports will be given to pupils when they attend their second catch up day at school. If your child will not be attending their second allocated day, please contact the school office via email to [admin.broogwr@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:admin.broogwr@bridgend.gov.uk) to advise if you would like your child's report emailed or posted home. You may also request to arrange a convenient appointment time to collect the report from the office. Please note that the subject specific report content dates from the last official day of school being open and therefore will not reflect any developments and progress made during school closure.

#### SIMS Parent App – a new communication tool

From September we will be launching an exciting new communication app across the school, which will give parents and carers readily available access to attendance data, term dates, details of school events, messages and school newsletters. The Parent App is being adopted by many schools across the authority and will also assist in transition to and communication with our secondary schools. We will be trialling this app in the first instance with the current Year 5 parents in the next few weeks in the form of email invites and aim to roll the app out to all parents in September. All communication to the app will of course be bilingual.

#### Classes for the new academic year

Parents/carers will be notified of the new classes via the school text service from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July. Due to operational requirements, you will notice some staff changes across the school as to where staff are located. The new classes and teachers will also be discussed with pupils attending their second catch up day at school, as part of the preparation for September.

## Summer Break

The summer break is now not too far away and as teachers/parents/carers and pupils, we should take this time to enjoy the (hopefully) sunny weather and recharge for the new academic year. We are planning to provide weekly Basic Skills youtube videos / tutorials in Numeracy and Literacy. There will also be a task grid of optional family tasks and we hope that you will enjoy completing some of these. Please do tweet any pictures to our Twitter account @ysgolbroogwr for us to see in September.

## Autumn Term 2020

As yet, we still do not know what the Autumn Term will bring in terms of the pandemic or education and we will ensure that we continue to communicate any developments to you as soon as we are able to do so. Currently there is no formal guidance, from the Welsh Government or the Local Authority, to permit us to agree a formal plan for September.

Bro Ogwr staff have provided excellent opportunities and work tasks to pupils since the school closure, alongside pre-recordings and YouTube videos, songs and stories. We have previously communicated readily-available Welsh language resources. Educational resources are continually being developed with more options and resources available week on week.

We do anticipate that school from September will take a form of 'Blended Learning', which will include a combination of face-to-face time with teachers at school (how much we do not yet know) and learning tasks at home. Staff have been working very differently this term while adapting and adopting new strategies and ways of teaching. We are currently looking into various options to further develop the use of Technology and pre-recordings as part of the online work and tasks to compliment the face-to-face sessions. Online tasks and recordings have in many cases been difficult to undertake at home for our staff and we aim to provide more opportunities in this area from September when all staff return to the school site and are able to plan and support each other in the process.

Once again, we thank you for your ongoing co-operation during these difficult times and your understanding and patience in what is a learning experience for us all. Thank you for the many messages of praise and support that we have received. As always, if there is any support or help that you require during the remainder of this term, please do not hesitate to contact the school via the school Admin email address.

Sharon Jayne

Headteacher

Nik Dart

Chair of Governors