



# St. Helen's Primary School & Cygnets Flying Start

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**Professional Teaching Awards Cymru Winner 2017**

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

Dear parent/carer,

This letter is available to listen to and add subtitles in a language of your choice via our YouTube channel. This can be found at: <https://youtu.be/ZI2DbGIKdVc>

## Thank you and the final hurdle

Your support during this difficult time has been greatly appreciated by myself and the staff. It has been a difficult time for everyone and the school has had to operate in so many different ways. Your patience and willingness to do things in many different ways is a true credit to you all. Your willingness to wear masks and make so many sacrifices has really helped in so many ways.

As we approach the Christmas holidays, it is more important than ever to stick to the national rules. Not meeting in other people's houses when we shouldn't, observing social distancing and taking a test when symptoms are present. We have not had to send any year groups home as yet this year and this is due in part to all our hard work in keeping everyone safe. By ensuring we all stick to the rules, hopefully that will continue to keep everyone safe and minimise the amount of people who have to self-isolate over the Christmas period.

## Deputy Headteacher

As you are aware, Mrs. Fredrickson has been appointed as the new Headteacher of Hafod Primary and will leave us at Christmas. The Governors have decided that Mrs. Lowe our Y6 teacher will be the Acting Deputy Headteacher until the end of the school year. During this time the Governors will advertise nationally for a permanent Deputy Headteacher to start in September 2021. I'm sure you join with me in wishing both Mrs. Fredrickson and Mrs. Lowe the best of luck in their new roles. Miss Rebecca Griffiths



will join us as our Year 4 teacher in January. She has just finished teaching in Dubai and we wish her every success at St. Helen's.

## Parking around the school

As you know, I have written on so many occasions urging all parents not to park on the double yellow lines and zig zags around the school. Thank you to everyone who has supported this, you have shown great care and kindness towards the children. However, there are still a small minority who constantly put our children at risk. Last Friday there was nearly a very serious accident outside the school, where a parent parked on double yellow lines reversed and nearly hit a child! There has never been a better time to start walking to school if you can. It will keep you fit, be better for the environment and keep our children safer. Please, if you are parking in this way, reflect on what you are doing and please start putting our children first.

## Visit by Father Christmas

We are very fortunate that Father Christmas has agreed to visit us on 9<sup>th</sup> December. He will bring a gift for all children and we look forward to seeing him. We will be making a grotto on the Infant yard to make him very welcome. The children will be able to see him from a social and safe distance!

## Christmas cards and gifts for other pupils and teachers

I know a lot of you like to provide gifts and cards for others in school at this time of year and it is always gratefully appreciated. We have received guidance from the council in relation to this. We can only accept cards/gifts on a specified date and these must be left for 72 hrs before we can touch them and give them out.

**Therefore, if you want to send in cards or a gift for other pupils or your child's teacher they must be brought in on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Unfortunately, we cannot accept them on any other day.**

They will be left untouched for 72 hours and sent home in a clear plastic sleeve at the end of the week. Please ensure good hygiene when touching anything sent home from school.

Again, this is different to what we are used to, but another sign of the current restrictions on what we do in school to keep our community safe.

## Pantomime

We usually love a visit to the Grand Theatre to watch the pantomime. This has been cancelled by them this year as currently, live performances are not allowed in Wales. However, I have purchased tickets to a live online performance of Cinderella on 16<sup>th</sup> December. The children will watch the pantomime in their classes on the big screen and can bring a bag of sweets in for the performance if you so wish. There will be no cost for this as it is a gift from the school.

## Important dates

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas activities week

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Father Christmas visits the school

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Any Christmas cards or gifts brought in

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Online pantomime for all pupils (sweets can be sent in)



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Last day of term, school closes for the 2 -week Christmas holiday  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> & Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – school closed for pupils (INSET days)  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January – school closed for pupils (INSET day)  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – school starts back for all pupils after the holidays

I hope you have a peaceful and safe festive period,

Mr. M. S. Thompson  
Headteacher

