



St. Helen's Primary School & Cygnets Flying Start

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Swansea SA1 3TY

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Professional Teaching Awards Cymru Winner 2017

10th January 2021

This letter is available on YouTube to listen to and translate at:

https://youtu.be/EyhblK_xjG0

Thank you

Again, thank you to those parents who have supported home learning so well over the past week and before Christmas. We know it can be difficult to balance work, family life and home learning during these very testing times. You are not expected to replace what goes on in school, but only do your best to support your child in the best way you can. We are offering many ways to help you, which we have shared with you and have included again in this letter. If there is anything we can do to help you and your child, please don't not hesitate to get in touch. The school is still open, all staff are still working and we are here to help!

I know a number of parents have told me that it has been difficult to motivate their children to work when they are not in school. This is understandable and there are a number of things you can do to counteract this. Please try and keep your child in routine with bedtimes and waking up times, as if they were in school. If you could get your child or with younger children support them to email their teacher by 9am to say they have started their home learning, this will help. This will give them the message that although they are not physically in school, learning continues as normal. As I have previously shared, there are a number of activities for them to undertake during the school day.

Return to school

You may have seen on the news that the Welsh Government have again delayed the return to school. They have now stated that they will review the decision when



the children can return on the 29th January and the children will only return if the cases of Covid19 fall dramatically. It is looking increasingly likely that the children may not return until sometime in February at the earliest.

Home learning and live lessons

We are currently about to trial the use of live lessons with our Y6 and Y5 pupils. The parents in these classes should have received a consent form to take part. It is essential that we have up to date mobile numbers and email addresses otherwise you will miss our many vital communications. We will then be looking to roll out live lessons to all classes.

Please also look at our twitter feed which is available on our school website www.sthelensprimary.uk.org This will provide you with extra information on how you can support your child at home and many ideas for home learning activities. For example, did you know that BBC will now be showing a number of television programmes every morning to support home learning? We have published the timetable for this week on Twitter. This will help those of you struggling with electronic devices or broadband issues.

All pupil activities/work are being shared on your child's Hwb account. (A video showing you how to log on is available at <https://youtu.be/iOTFkfg0ev4>)

There are also a number of 'how to' videos on our YouTube channel (St. Helen's Primary Swansea Official) which show you how to use Hwb, Microsoft Teams, Reading Buddy and My Maths etc. These can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtnwz5FTWB7s-eqp9C3aKA>

You received your child's log in details for all these sites back in September and again in December. If you have lost them, please email your child's class teacher.

The class teacher emails are:

Nursery = CerasuoloD1@Hwbcymru.net

Reception = JefferyK@Hwbcymru.net

Year 1 = BegumN346@Hwbcymru.net

Year 2 = CleaveD2@Hwbcymru.net

Year 3 = SudburyT2@Hwbcymru.net

Year 4 = GriffithsR475@Hwbcymru.net

Year 5 = StevensE21@Hwbcymru.net

Year 6 = LoweJ11@Hwbcymru.net

Phone calls home

All children/parents will receive a weekly phone call from the school during this closure period. This may come up as being from a private number so please watch out for the call. The aim of this phone call is to check that you are all ok and if we can support you in any way with home learning. Engaging with this phone call will be very helpful for everyone. The phone call may be from your child's class teacher or one of the Teaching Assistants working in their class. It may even be from me!



Critical Workers

The school is not closed to all pupils as we are still open during this period for education for the children of critical workers. This operates between 8:50am and 3:20 pm Monday to Friday. The definition of a critical worker can be found at:

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-critical-key-workers-test-eligibility>

The children undertake lessons in school and are supported with any tasks set by their teachers.

School meals are not provided, and any child using this facility will need to bring their own healthy packed lunch.

If you require your child to attend school so that you can undertake your critical work, please email me on ThompsonM28@Hwbcymru.net

Electronic devices

As pupils work from home, we know that much of the work relies on the use of suitable electronic devices such as a laptop, Ipad or Chromebook. In order to support this, if you do not have a suitable device, you can loan one from the school. I have previously contacted you about this and many of you have taken us up on the offer. If you require a device during this period, please complete the form which can be found at:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ug4_TzS3ZEGUCRtgHRR5ky_wis5ixMmhguxC0hs2hUMFdITVJYT0xYME02MVVFZRk5UQzNVNUg5Ry4u

Some pupils will also receive home learning packs which will be delivered to your homes next week.

Free school meals

For those pupils who are entitled to free school meals, you should have been contacted via email by the council to set up a direct payment to you.

Finally

We know this is an extremely difficult time for everyone in the community. We are all worried about keeping safe and the effect the school closure is having on our children. By supporting one another, we can get through this and hopefully better times are ahead. If you require any support from us, please always remember we are to help and not judge. Every family circumstance is different and we appreciate that. Please take advantage of everything we have to offer. We know this can never replace the school operating as we normally do, but together we can work together to minimise the harm being closed is doing to our children.

Please keep safe and hopefully we shall see you all back in school soon,

Mr. M.S. Thompson
Headteacher

