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YSGOL GYNRADD A MEITHRIN STRYD SIORS GEORGE STREET PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Friday 25 September 2020

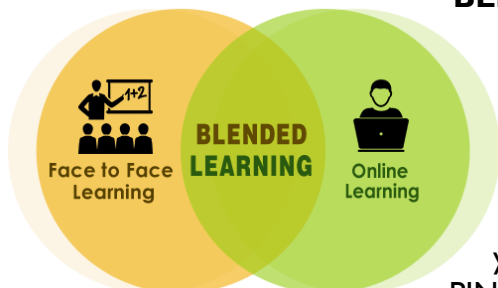
Dear parent/carers

It is the end of another very busy and productive week. Children have settled into new classes and it feels as though the term is getting into swing. We are delighted to have pupils back and enjoying school, yet we are also very aware of the possibility that our school, like others across Wales, may be forced to close classes at some point over the coming weeks and months.

Firstly, I want to reassure you that any decision to close classes will not be taken lightly. The value of pupils being in school cannot be overstated, especially after the long period of closure earlier this year. Nobody is keener for pupils to be here than our staff, all of who are committed to providing a safe, stimulating and purposeful experience for our pupils to enjoy.

Nevertheless, you will be aware that localised outbreaks compromise safety and that on occasion year groups and even whole schools have had to close. We already have plans in place to continue pupils' learning in the event of a partial or full closure and want to make you aware of these now.

BLENDDED LEARNING



A mixture of in-school and at-home activity is sometimes referred to as 'blended learning'. Should we be forced to close (as a whole or in part), we will continue providing work for children at home through the **Seesaw** app until classes can reopen again.

We have rolled all classes forwards so that children are now in their new year groups. Most pupils who were previously issued their unique 12-letter PIN will continue using the same details to access their Seesaw account.

Parents of 'new' pupils in Years 1-6 and those who were in Mr Taylor's Year 5 class last year, will by now have received a text with your child's new unique 12-letter PIN.

We will also text new 12-letter PIN codes to all parents of pupils in Nursery and Reception once all consent forms have been received.

A help document explaining how to download and log in to the Seesaw app is available on the school website at:

<https://www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk/media/3513/seesaw-support-letter-parents.pdf>

Next week we will be using time in classes to refresh children's memory and make sure they are confident with using Seesaw. We will also set a home-learning task to check that they can access the system effectively from home. Teachers will monitor pupils' progress in school but if you and your child(ren) experience difficulties with using Seesaw let us know by contacting the school office on the email or phone number at the top of this letter.

Together we live learn and value

WELLBEING CALLS

Text messages have been sent this week inviting parents to book a wellbeing call with your child's class teacher. These calls are to provide an update on how your child has settled into their new class.



Once you have booked a time, your child's class teacher will ring you on the day on the number we use for our texting service. Calls will take place during the following times:

Morning Nursery	Friday 9 th October	1.00-3.30
Afternoon Nursery	Friday 9 th October	9.00-11.30
Reception	Friday 9 th October	1.00-3.30
Year 1	Thursday 8 th October	1.00-3.30
Year 2	Tuesday 6 th October	1.00-3.30
Year 3	Wednesday 7 th October	1.00-3.30
Year 4	Wednesday 7 th October	9.00-11.30
Year 5	Tuesday 6 th October	9.00-12.00
Year 6	Thursday 8 th October	9.00-11.30

To speak with everyone we have to limit these calls to five minutes so please think beforehand if there is any vital information you need.

Your child's class teacher will arrange another 10 minute telephone appointment with you in November to discuss the progress your child has made to that point in the term. **Please note that these calls will replace our usual face-to-face consultations which will not take place this term.**

In the meantime, if you have a pressing concern that you need to share with your child's class teacher please contact our school office by phone or email and we will arrange for them to speak with you.



TORFAEN LIBRARY BOOK LOANS

I would like to bring to your attention the following excellent service available from Torfaen libraries;

The Torfaen Libraries 'Request and Collect' service is available for library members across all three libraries. It's easy to use too! Just contact the library service on 01633 647676 or email cwmbran.library@torfaen.gov.uk.

Let the library team know what you're after and they will put a collection of books together just for you.

The team will contact your home once the books are

ready to arrange a suitable time for you to pick them up from your chosen library.

If you or your child(ren) are not members of a library yet you can join up for free online by visiting www.torfaen.gov.uk/libraries. With a library card and PIN you will be able to browse the library catalogue online to see all the books available.

It's a brilliant way to get something new to read just for pleasure or to support a topic your child is learning about in class.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'A. Brasington'.

Mr A Brasington