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

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Friday 11 December 2020

Dear parent/carers

### ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FINAL WEEK OF TERM

As you are probably aware, the Welsh Education Minister, Kirsty Williams, announced yesterday that all secondary schools will move to online learning for the final week of term.

Given the high transmission rates locally and the very significant pressure this is placing on health services in our area, the local authority has decided that all primary schools in Torfaen will also close at the end of the day on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. The final two days of term will be for home-learning only.

This is clearly not the end to term we have been planning but this year has strongly reinforced the need for us to be both adaptable and consistent in our resolve.

Sadly, this turn of events demonstrates how serious the situation is locally. I know that many of you have already chosen to keep your children at home for the remainder of term. If you are doing so, please stay at home, avoid mixing with others and minimise the risk you put yourselves and anyone else under. After an excellent term, three of our year groups have gone into self-isolation today following new cases. This clearly shows that the spread of the virus is not relenting so please do avoid running any unnecessary risks by spending time with others, however small a deal it may seem, unless it is really necessary.

Where parents have chosen not to send children in, we will record absence as unauthorised. Please understand that this is not a judgement by school – we have a legal duty to complete registers according to set rules and have no option about this. However, we will not be reporting pupils' attendance in the last week and absence will not be counted negatively in any way. Nevertheless, it would help us enormously if you could please just make us aware of your plans/actions so that our office staff do not need to spend time following up on unexplained absences. It will also help us to organise efficiently, particularly as we now have more than 20 members of staff also self-isolating.

If you have chosen not to send your children but have not yet confirmed this then please either call the office or email us using the details above. Thank you.

School will be open as normal for children in Reception, Year 1, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6 between Monday and Wednesday next week. We will be continuing with our planned activities, including our Christmas Lunch, on what will now be the last in-school day of 2020.

I should like to make you aware also that there are ongoing discussions about a possible future lockdown and the implications this may have on school opening in January. I can assure you that we will share information about the impact of any decision as soon as it is known to us.

In the meantime, I should like to thank you for your continuing support and to wish you and your family safe and well.

Kind regards,

A. Brasington

*Together we live learn and value*