



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

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Monday 11 January 2021

Dear parent/carers

I am writing to provide you with a brief update following the announcement last week confirming the extension of school closure until at least the 29<sup>th</sup> January.

This will be another acutely challenging period for us all. As a parent of children studying GCSEs and A Levels, I fully appreciate how unsettling this disruption is for young people and for parents/carers alike. As a staff we are committed to supporting our George Street pupils and families to manage the current situation as effectively as possible. Realistically, we know this will not be easy for anyone. However, I am also hopeful that if we pull together sensibly, with patience and determination, this may be the last national lockdown we have to endure. Let us all do what we can to make that the case.

### HOME LEARNING

During this period, the majority of pupils will be learning at home. As in the previous lockdown, teachers are posting home-learning activities on Seesaw each week. These activities include a variety of tasks to develop children's key skills, particularly in literacy and numeracy.

Where pupils are learning letters and sounds as part of our Read, Write Inc programme, specific resources are being made available each week to support their learning and progress at the correct level.

In key stage 2 (Years 3-6) teachers are also hosting live sessions this week using the Microsoft Teams app. A summary of the sessions for this week is provided in the table below.



w/b 11.01.2021	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
Monday	<b>11:30</b> Check in/weekly planner	<b>10:00</b> Check in/weekly planner	<b>11.00 – 11.30 Penfro</b> <b>11.30 – 12.00 Caerdydd</b> Check in/weekly planner	<b>11.00</b> Check in/weekly planner
Tuesday		<b>10:00</b> Teaching session with whole year group		<b>10:00</b> Literacy Task 1 and MyOn input.
Wednesday	<b>11:00</b> Maths session	<b>10:00</b> Teaching session with whole year group	<b>11.00 - 11.40</b> Literacy/Forest School session	
Thursday	<b>11:00</b> Literacy session		<b>11.00 – 11.30 Penfro</b> <b>11.30 – 12.00 Caerdydd</b> Maths Bingo session	<b>11:00</b> Maths
Friday	<b>11:30</b> Check out for the week		<b>11:00 Penfro</b> <b>11:30 Caerdydd</b> Spellings/ Check out	<b>11:00</b> Check out for the week

Pupils accessing the sessions will need to observe the school agreement for the use of Teams. A link to this agreement was sent to you last week and will be discussed with pupils in this week's sessions. You can also access the agreement on the school website at: <https://www.georgestreetprimary.co.uk/media/3737/gsp-user-agreement-live-streaming-lessons-2020.pdf>

A similar table of planned sessions will be provided for parents each week. The timing and frequency of sessions takes account of the fact that staff are providing online sessions while also teaching pupils attending the school's temporary hub and planning, monitoring and feeding back to pupils on their use of Seesaw.

Please be aware that online sessions will inevitably create some teething problems. If your child is experiencing difficulty with accessing sessions using Teams then please contact the school office using the email or phone number above and we will assist in resolving the issue.

## **BBC RESOURCES**



You may be aware that the BBC is providing a variety of online and broadcast resources to support primary and secondary pupils. These resources are available on a number of different platforms and have been tailored to address the needs and interests of different age groups. An overview of this provision can be found at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zvryp4j>

A timetable for this week's sessions is available at: <https://bam.files.bbci.co.uk/bam/live/content/zjbstrd/pdf>

It is not intended that the BBC resources be used instead of the planned activities on Seesaw but parents/carers may find these useful in providing further variety and interest for pupils during this time.

## **HUB PROVISION**

From last Thursday the school has been providing a temporary 'hub' for the children of keyworkers and vulnerable pupils. All places for this provision have now been allocated.

Pupils attending the hub will complete home-learning activities with support from school staff.

## **KEEPING IN TOUCH**

The school office will remain open during school hours. If you have any queries or need assistance, for example with passwords, please use the phone number or email on this letter to get in touch. If you wish to contact your child's class teacher, please do the same and we will be able to pass on any message for you.

Kind regards,

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

Mr A Brasington