

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community

Cymuned Ddysgu Ebwy Fawr

Headteacher / Prifathro: Mr H R Lloyd BA Hons MSc

W: www.ebbwfawr.co.uk

Our Ref HL/JSM/CV

17 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I write to update you regarding our response to the Coronavirus outbreak.

As Headteacher of Ebbw Fawr Learning Community I have the interest of all of our children at the heart of all decisions that we make, I continue to follow advice from Local, National and UK governments, and announcements by Public Health Wales. I have listened to all advisory bodies and although school closure remains a possibility for the future, **all advice right now is to remain open. We have no confirmed cases.**

Some parents have made the decision to keep their children at home because of concerns about family health conditions. In some cases, this is not in line with advice from Public Health Wales or government guidance, but I respect parents' decisions. When parents' decisions are in line with WG guidance then we will authorise absence, this includes when pupils have a new persistent cough or high temperature. Absences which do not follow government guidance are being recorded, coding and authorisation of these will be discussed with the Local Authority.

We have taken steps to reduce the risks to pupils. We have stopped all school trips, sports fixtures and parents' evenings. We have closed the school to public bookings out of school hours, we have closed our meeting rooms to outside agencies. Toilet areas are being continually checked and soap replenished. Teachers have spoken to pupils about hand washing and where possible this is being demonstrated in class and is streamed on the school internal TV systems. We have also increased the cleaning of door handles and other surfaces which can potentially spread the virus. We will constantly review these measures and respond to any advice.

In readiness for any future school closure, we have been working very hard on the preparation of school work as advised by Kirsty Williams, the Minister of Education. If we need to close this work will be published daily via TEAMS and SAM Learning in the secondary phase. We have surveyed the school and know that around 85% of our children have access to laptops (or similar devices) and the internet within their homes. For those children who do not have access we are preparing paper copies of work.

We realise that an increase in a number of children are staying home and staff are endeavouring to put work onto the learning platforms as quickly as possible, however please bear with us as this does take time.

If we need to close all primary pupils will be provided with a work pack consisting of a reading book, worksheets related to current learning and mini projects related to their topic. Work will also be set through Class Dojo.

Learning to Achieve Together / Yn Dysgu i Gyflawni gyda 'n gilydd

Primary Phase/Cyfnod Cynradd: Strand Annealing Lane, Ebbw Vale NP23 6AN T: 01495 357755

Secondary Phase/Cyfnod Uwchradd: Lime Avenue, Ebbw Vale NP23 6GL T: 01495 354690



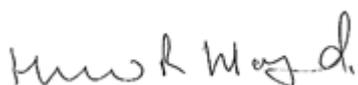
If you are a parent of a child in Year 11 I know you'll be concerned regarding their upcoming examinations. We are in daily contact with Qualifications Wales and the WJEC and the current advice is to prepare for examinations as normal.

I have three teenage children myself and know that these are worrying times. We are doing all we can to keep the school working normally. Given the speed that advice is changing I will now be using our Twitter feed, Facebook group and the school website to publish regular updates as the situation develops. In the meantime can you reinforce with your children the following points.

- Please talk to your children rationally and calmly about the situation. This crisis will pass if we all work together.
- If your child is feeling unwell or develops a cough or a high temperature, please do not send them to school, check current government guidelines for rules on self isolation.
- The need to maintain good hand hygiene. Wash their hands on a regular basis during the school day and wash them properly and thoroughly as per the advice they've been given.
- Make sure that they know how to access TEAMS and SAM Learning (secondary phase) and Class Dojo (primary phase). For secondary phase pupils make sure they have written down their passwords and access codes. In the primary phase if parents do not have access to Class Dojo please contact reception.
- Within the secondary phase if you do not have access to suitable ICT equipment and the INTERNET at home please inform your form tutor.

Could I thank you for your continued support and calmness during this crisis. I will provide a further update towards the end of this week or sooner if the need arises.

Yours faithfully



Mr H R Lloyd
Headteacher