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10th February 2021

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of this half term, I hope you and your families are all well. We would like to thank you all for the tremendous job you are doing with home learning. We want you to know that we understand the significant challenges home learning brings our parents and our learners.

We have a diverse school community and as a school, we are very aware of the different challenges each of our families face when the government make a decision to move schools to remote learning. We know some families have great internet and sufficient high quality devices to support learning, we also know that for some families internet reception is poor or non-existent and one device has to support more than one learner (in some instances there is no device in the household); we know some parents have lots of time to support their children, we also know many parents are trying to juggle work commitments and expectations from employers with the demands of distance learning; we know some parents have the skills and knowledge to support learning and others don't. You cannot replicate a school day at home! It would be very easy for us to assume everyone's circumstances are the same as our own. Whatever your circumstances and whatever you are doing with your children, you are all doing a fantastic job.

Last Friday, Welsh Government confirmed plans for Foundation Phase (Nursery to Year 2) to begin to return to school after half term. This morning we have received the guidance on how we can implement this safely and are now in a position to share the plans for after half term. Monmouthshire County Council have confirmed that schools will have 2 days at the start of the half term to prepare for the safe return of learners. The following are key dates:

Friday 12th February: Training Day postponed - Staff will continue with remote learning, live learning sessions and provision for vulnerable learners and those children of critical workers who have already booked places.

Monday 15th February to Friday 19th: Half Term - There will be no remote learning, live learning sessions or provision for vulnerable learners and those children of critical workers.

Monday 22nd February: Training day postponed - Staff will continue with remote learning, live learning sessions and provision for vulnerable learners and those children of critical workers for all year groups. (Live learning sessions will be for Years 3 to 6 only on this day).

Tuesday 23rd February: Staff will continue with remote learning, live learning sessions and provision for vulnerable learners and those children of critical workers for all year groups.

Wednesday 24th February: All Nursery to Year 2 learners return to school. Staff will continue with remote learning, live learning sessions and provision for vulnerable learners and those children of critical workers for Year 3 to Year 6.

We would like to thank our learners who returned the survey, we know they are missing their teachers and friends very much; we miss them too. It has been great to see so many engage with our live learning sessions; we hope they enjoy them as much as the staff do. We plan each meet to ensure siblings do not have to be online at the same time and the groups have been kept small to allow learners quality time to interact with their teacher and each other. As these take a full morning to complete we have decided to keep them to two mornings a week (Monday and Friday) to allow staff to respond to and support learners for the rest of the time.

We would also like to hear from parents. We have sent a parent survey via ParentMail forms.

Finally, thank you for all the messages that you have been sending over the last few weeks. Constructive comments are appreciated and are considered when we review our practices. Messages of support have been much appreciated by staff who are working incredibly hard in these very unusual circumstances.

We would like to wish you all a safe and healthy half term.

Cofion cynnes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S. Hamer', is displayed within a light blue rectangular box.

Mrs S. Hamer
Headteacher