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5th January 2021

Dear Parents

I trust you have all had a peaceful and refreshing Christmas and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Yesterday evening the minister for Education, Kirsty Williams, made a statement outlining that all schools, including primary schools, would move to online learning until the 18th January 2021. The statement explained the reasoning behind the decision and that the government would use the next two weeks to work with local authorities, schools and colleges to plan for the rest of the term.

'The situation in Wales and across the UK remains very serious. Today, the four UK Chief Medical Officers have agreed that the UK is now at the highest level of risk, Joint Biosecurity Council level 5.'

'Wales remains in the highest level of restrictions. Everyone must stay at home'

This late announcement has meant that our plans to re-open to all pupils tomorrow (Wednesday 6th January 2021) have had to change. From **Wednesday 6th January 2021** until **Friday 15th January 2021**, the school will only be open to identified vulnerable groups and children of critical workers. I recognise and sincerely apologise for this very short notice. However, we need to carefully plan provision, which also takes into account that we will be required to maintain 'contact groups'. The main reason for school closure is to achieve social separation, reduce the spread of the virus (particularly in light of the new and highly transmittable variant) and keep learners, their families and our staff safe. Therefore, I should be grateful if you only request this provision where there are **no other alternatives. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.'**

We have attached our Distance Learning Strategy detailing our commitment to providing the best learning we can under these circumstances. If you have any difficulty accessing online learning from home, please contact the school office who will direct the enquiry to the appropriate member of staff.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through the implications of the announcement and revise our plans. We are deeply sorry for the impact these late changes

have on your own lives and commitments and trust you understand these are out of the school's control. Be assured we will continue to communicate with you as soon as new information is shared with us.

It saddens me greatly that society continues to be in this place of turbulence, but the vaccine roll out gives us all greater hope for the future and it is important we cling to this positive action. I hope for a healthy, happy and purposeful New Year for all of our school community – and one that is increasingly Covid free and will enable us to get back to some sort of normality.

Cofion cynnes

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

Mrs S. Hamer

Headteacher