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27th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our very first remote summer term! Normally I would start my Summer Term newsletter by welcoming everybody back to school. However, I'd like to start this one by thanking everyone for their thoughtful emails of concern for staff health and wellbeing; I can tell you that thankfully all staff are well.

We know many of our pupils are missing coming to school and seeing their friends, we miss the children very much too. It's lovely to get all the messages from the children and hear about everything they are doing. In my last letter I mentioned that we were hoping to establish opportunities for video conferencing. It is imperative that we have a platform that is safe and secure and we are waiting for protocol guidance from Welsh Government and the Local Authority. In the meantime please keep corresponding by email on Hwb or the school email address. I have also attached safeguarding guidance from the Local Authority which includes online safety tips. As part of our Wednesday work upload KS2 pupils were sent guidance on using Teams within Office 365 on Hwb. This will enable them to 'meet' with friends.

It's definitely been a strange and challenging time so it's okay if your or your child are feeling a bit worried or overwhelmed at the moment. We understand that it can be difficult to find the time to tackle any of the tasks we are sending home. Many of you, like our staff, are trying to juggle being a frontline critical worker or working from home with looking after young children. Some of you may have watched Professor Brian Cox on the Andrew Marr Show. He has been tasked with doing some primary science lessons for BBC Bitesize and was saying how difficult these concepts were to teach in a classroom, never mind virtually, and how it has given him more respect for the skills and professionalism of teachers. At the beginning of last week the Welsh Government issued a policy statement 'Stay Safe, Stay Learning'. The statement clearly states that the safety and well-being of our children and our workforce and supporting the physical and mental well-being of our children and young people throughout this period is paramount. It also recognises that although parents are the primary educators, they are not teachers. Welsh Government do not expect you to recreate school at home. During this time when schools are closed and the National Curriculum has been suspended, please remember everything you do with your child is learning. Baking, gardening, exercise, talking, playing games and reading all develop key literacy, numeracy and social skills, teach resilience and allow time for personal well-being.

During this awful period we need to try to find as many positives as we can. The new curriculum planned for 2022 will be very different from the curriculum we are used to. Our subjects will change to Areas of Learning Experiences and will have a focus on authentic learning i.e. real life experiences. Four principles will be at the heart of the new curriculum. We can take this opportunity to begin to develop elements of two of these principles, Ethically Informed Citizens and Healthy Confident Individuals, particularly mental health.

Welsh Government has made a commitment to ensure no child is digitally excluded and are not disadvantaged because of access to technology or the internet. Please respond to the recent communication from school if you do not have access to devices or home broadband. I have attached a number of advice sheets and relevant links for your information.

We can't say yet when we will be able to open the school but we will continue to do our utmost to keep our pupils learning and our school community connected.

Take care and stay safe.

<https://gov.wales/covid-19-guidance-parents-and-carers-support-families-stay-safe-healthy-and-learning>

<https://hwb.gov.wales/zones/online-safety/news/articles/42ae160b-7ab4-4510-8792-c70ef861c6d5>

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Hamer". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Mrs S Hamer

Headteacher