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Headteacher/Pennaeth: **Mr. S Rayer**

May 11th 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had an enjoyable bank holiday weekend. A brief look at Twitter just now showed there were lots of VE Day celebrations in the community! I'll have good look at them this week and see if there is enough material to make a video for the children – I have included some in this morning's assembly. It has also been lovely to read about so many random acts of kindness that lots of children have been making too! Well done and thank you everyone!

Updates this week for you:

- Distant learning activities continue to be set for the children. A reminder that these activities are **not** compulsory. We do not want any of this work to cause anxiety in the household. There is no expectation to be printing out any of the activities/worksheets. The idea is to either work straight on to the computer in Google Docs, Google Slides etc, or work on paper or in the books we provided before we closed. If you require another book, or missed them being given out, they are available to collect from school reception.
- Access to Google Classroom (Y3-Y6) is only available via the **children's** @rogerstone.com email accounts. If there are any signing-in issues with the children's email accounts, please email distantlearning@rogerstoneprimary.com. We are exploring the feasibility of extending this to Y2 children.
- As a result of your feedback from the parents' questionnaire, teachers have been making phone calls home last week (and this week) and are uploading video messages for the children. The feedback teachers have had from the parents they have spoken to so far has been really uplifting – thank you so much.
- If you did not receive a free school meals voucher last week and you are entitled to one, please email rogerstone.primary@newport.gov.uk and let us know, stating the name of your child(ren).
- I have a meeting with the reception and nursery teachers this week to discuss a "virtual" presentation of some kind with as much information as we can for our new starters. We'll be in touch very shortly with an update.
- Bassaleg School are preparing transition materials for the Y6 children and these will be available on their website early after half term. Y6 teachers met with the Head of Y7 last week, as they would do normally and shared information.

A few parents have asked during phone calls last week if I know when we will be back in school. I'm afraid I don't. Despite what you will have heard announced by the Prime Minister last night, we in Wales have been given no indication of a return date. We do know that we will be given 3 weeks' notice and it will most probably be a phased return, but when that will be we do not know. It has been assumed by the



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MAETHU
YSBRYDOLI
CYFLAWNI



NURTURE
INSPIRE
ACHIEVE

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media that Y6 will be the first back in primary, but again, we have not been given any indication of this in Wales.

The Education Minister in Wales has given her assurances that Welsh schools will not return until scientific evidence says it is safe to do so. The First Minister for Wales made an announcement last night following the PMs address:

“Our advice has not changed in Wales.

- *Wherever you can you should stay at home.*
- *If you need to leave home for work, exercise or shopping, you should stay local and stay alert.*
- *Coronavirus has not gone away.... Two weeks ago, I published a framework to lead Wales out of the pandemic. This has helped us decide that schools will not return to normal on June 1...”*

See the full statement at: <https://gov.wales/first-minister-wales-message-people-wales>

Don't forget to remind the children that my Monday and Friday assemblies are uploaded to the school website under “classes – Mr Rayer” – and children's work can be shared via Twitter (@RayerHead or distantlearning@rogerstoneprimary.com should they wish. Also:

- Mrs Dunn has provided some wellbeing support information which you can find on the school website under “Information”
- The Wednesday morning Wellbeing phone number is 07871781093, where you can chat to member of the leadership team.

Finally this week, our inspection report was published last week (see link below). We are very pleased with the outcomes. It recognises all the hard work everyone in school puts in and clearly shows how well staff, pupils, parents, governors and everyone in our wider community work together in providing the excellent provision we have at Rogerstone – a BIG team effort!

Thank you everyone for your on-going support during these very difficult times.

Best wishes and take care.

Steve Rayer
Headteacher

Inspection report link:

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6802276>

Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes



Cynlluniau Ysgolion Iach - Rhwydwaith Cymru