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Headteacher/Pennaeth: Mr. S Rayer

November 8th 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and have been able to manage the “fire-breaker” fortnight, which of course ends on Monday.

It has been lovely to see the children today enjoying some time in their costumes or own choice of clothes! Whilst on this theme, next Friday is Children in Need and everyone is invited to wear something spotty (no uniform required!). A £1 coin donation would be very much appreciated which will go to Children in Need. As always Mrs Wilson has arranged some class activities for the children to do on the day.

I would just like to clarify the position with providing work for children at home. Friday homework is set weekly for the children to complete, should they wish to, although we do encourage it to be done so the children are used to completing work in this way as we could have a contact group needing to isolate at any time.

For individuals who need to self-isolate for 14 days (owing to a household member being tested positive or being identified by Track and Trace as a contact), work will be provided once we have confirmation of the required 14-day isolation.

Thank you again for your support with social distancing and with drop off and pick up arrangements. I want to reassure you that I am constantly reviewing all procedures in line with the latest guidance from Welsh Government and Newport City Council.

I refer you to the “COVID-19 Quick reference guide for parents” document that I brought to your attention a few updates ago which you can find on the school website. This provides guidance on timescales and procedures should cases be confirmed in school or within families.

This is a joint effort between all schools and families across the city. As you know, we work very closely with our partner secondary and other primary schools where siblings may attend. As stated previously each of our year groups are ‘contact groups’ and no children mix with other contact groups during the day in school. Nursery (am and pm together) are treated as a single contact group as nursery staff are in both groups – so if there was a positive case in either morning or afternoon nursery – the whole nursery would need to



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self-isolate for the appropriate period. All schools have different contexts and curriculum requirements which will impact on the size of the 'contact group'. Many of you will be aware that Bassaleg, our partner High school, have had to self-isolate most year groups and I know that Miss Lambe has written to parents explaining the reasons for this. We work together as a supportive group of Headteacher colleagues and please be assured that we are all following guidelines.

A number of points made in a recent letter from Miss Lambe were very helpful for us to communicate with our own school community. I have adapted them for primary phase.

It is absolutely essential that if any member of a household displays symptoms or goes for a test then the whole household must isolate immediately whilst awaiting the test result. As previously communicated with all families, **no pupil must come into school if they or a household member are awaiting test results.** Should a pupil test come back as positive and that pupil has been in school up to 48 hours previously, this will result in the 'contact group' needing to self-isolate. The school therefore is putting trust in all parents/carers to strictly adhere to this protocol and keep us informed of your situation, so that we can work together to keep all members of our school community safe.

Please do not bring isolating pupils onto the school site to collect siblings – they must remain at home.

Should there be a positive case in a contact group confirmed, the school liaises with Environmental Health to establish the self-isolation dates for both the child and the contact group; **these dates are fixed and not ones set by the school. The decision to self-isolate 'contact groups' for 'x' number of days is one that has been taken by Welsh Government and is something all schools across Wales are adhering to.** Our responsibility is to ensure that should such a scenario occur then we would need to have a 'continuous learning model' in place so that all of our pupils are as purposefully engaged in their learning as possible whilst at home.

As I stated earlier, thank you for your continued support – this is a real community effort and as we continue to work and communicate together we will ensure the safety of all during these challenging times. Thank you.



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Don't forget, for anything urgent or a notification of a positive case outside of normal school hours please email me at distantlearning@rogerstoneprimary.com.

Finally, just a reminder that the flu immunisation will take place in school this coming Tuesday and Wednesday for those who have completed consent forms. You can find more information by following this link: www.phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/beat-flu/children

Take care everyone and have a good week.

Kind regards,



Steve Rayer
Headteacher

