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

January 9<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I hope you are all safe and well. I'm sure you have had a very challenging week with making arrangements for your household.

It has been a very busy week in school with lots of arrangements being put in place and some being changed as the week has progressed, but we did eventually hear, albeit through the media, of the longer-term arrangements this term.

The Welsh Government has announced an extension to the period of school closure for face-to-face teaching. The media reports have stated this will be until half term unless cases fall, however the official letter I have received from the minister yesterday states that this will be reviewed on January 29<sup>th</sup>. I will of course keep you updated.

### Home Learning

There have been a number of communications from parents with questions, queries and concerns with home learning – thank you for sharing them with us.

Understandably, there are raised anxieties with families juggling home learning and family life, as there are with our staff too. This is a very different way of working to what we are used to and our provision for home learning this time round does differ from what we provided last year.

I want to make sure what we provide is consistent, purposeful and communicated clearly to you. I have listed the key points in a separate document on the school website "Home Learning 2021". There is additional information within it about using Xbox and PlayStation to access Google Classroom and See-Saw and an add-on to Goggle Classroom that teachers will be using to provide "voice" feedback.

As there is a further extended period of online learning, we will introduce the use of weekly Google Meet sessions. I will issue further guidance for staff, parents and pupils next week with the introduction of these live sessions from 18<sup>th</sup> January, subject to discussion with staff, consent from parents/carers and approval by governors.

### Staffing

All our staff are doing an incredible job in keeping everything running, whether that be in school with supporting childcare and vulnerable learners, maintaining the site and paying the bills or from home, providing daily activities for children, feeding back to them and moving their learning forward. All this while juggling their own home lives too.

We are still faced with staff needing to self-isolate or shield and of course cover sickness from time to time. Miss Pugh covers a lot of this as and when required as



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well as being part of the senior leadership team who are on site every day supporting the staff and children. As such, Miss Parsons is providing all the children's work and feedback during this lockdown period for Y4SP.

Some lovely staff news too - congratulations to Miss Ryan who is expecting a baby! With the current COVID rules for pregnant staff, they do need to finish in the workplace much earlier than usual to keep them safe. Arrangements will be put in place for her replacement once we know when we are returning to school for face-to-face learning, which I will of course communicate to you in good time. Please be assured that Miss Ryan will liaise very closely with her replacement to ensure a smooth as possible hand over. For this current period of lockdown though, Miss Ryan will be providing the children's learning.

Thank you again to those who have emailed me with questions or concerns and for your very kind words of support.

Take care everyone. I will be in touch again next week.

Kind regards,

**Steve Rayer**  
Headteacher

**For anything urgent or a notification of a positive case outside of normal school hours please email me at [distantlearning@rogerstoneprimary.com](mailto:distantlearning@rogerstoneprimary.com).**

