



# Newsletter



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Summer Term 24/4/20



## **Summer Term!**

What a strange welcome back to the summer term! We hope you had an Easter break that could bring some positives.

We have tried to think of everything you are going through. Not being able to see parents, children, grandchildren. You may be suffering with symptoms, your family member may be ill, friends may be suffering, and there is the dreadful thought of families losing loved ones.

We have parents who are working front line and there is a huge amount of stress on them and their families. We are all sending you our strength and support to them. We have parents working at food stores and again putting themselves at risk. We have those caring for the elderly within the community. It is the least we can do to provide child care for these families. As a school we would like to say a big thank you to those workers who are providing a vital and essential service in such difficult times.

There is lots of media attention on teachers as essential workers. I can assure you that our teachers and teaching assistants shy away from such attention. School runs on a whole team effort and couldn't continue without those supporting everything the school does for their families. Cleaners, kitchen staff, caretakers, LEA electricians, and premises managers who help us ensure our buildings are safe for our return. We appreciate everything that everyone contributes to the care and education of our children.

We too, would also like to thank you as parents and carers. We know that this time had not been easy for you to try and continue your own jobs alongside trying to home educate your children. We want you to know that you've been amazing.

### **Home learning - what about it?**

Well this has been a new experience for us all. Once we knew what was coming we got work 'packs' out to you all straight away before school closed. This was to ensure some learning could continue as we knew lockdown was possible. Since then teaching and learning staff have been extremely busy looking at ways to get learning materials out to you at your homes. This has developed every day as staff learn new skills themselves for sending out teaching materials and video type lessons! They have been extremely busy indeed! We have explored all sorts of options to try and suit all our families, those with computers, those without, those who have Facebook accounts, those who don't, those who use text, those who use phone lines, those who have video link, those who avoid social media, it's a whole range of communication going on here! It's incredible. We have seen the need to cater for all our families. It hasn't been a simple task but once again Eastern thrives on a challenge. In a nutshell, this is how learning is communicated between school and home. Each member of staff has found ways to suit their all children in the school. Absolutely astounding:

- HWB emails
- HWB notice boards
- Facebook challenges
- Twitter challenges
- Video story telling time
- Video teaching demonstration via text as well as HWB
- Phone calls home

Any problems are resolved by staff contacting parents directly.

Staff are currently ensuring that all pupils are engaging in some home learning, even if parents have found their own way with purchasing materials for themselves. Some parents find home tuition a better option, but each family is finding their own way to ensure their child's right to an education is fulfilled. Learning opportunities can come from every day life and parents have been extremely creative in providing this, as a school, we have been blown away by your creativity during lock down.

It's been lovely to see that children are becoming less reliant on phones, tablets, social media and gaming machines. Maybe they are recognising that there is a big world out there to explore. Who knows what will come next from this. Many of us have developed new hobbies and are taking more notice of nature around us. This can only bring benefits surely!

### **So what's happening now?**

Ysgol Cwm Brombil is now the base for child care during lockdown that is required for essential workers and vulnerable families. Each request for child care has been considered on an individual basis. The reason the LEA provided one base school was to lower the number of staff having to travel to different work places. All 5 cluster schools have been locked up and Cwm Brombil has different rooms allocated for different schools. Staff from each of these schools are currently on a rota to supervise the children needing a place on particular days. We have taken equipment there from our school to ensure that there is plenty for them to keep them busy. Families who are unable to walk are provided with transport from the LEA. Children and staff arrive for breakfast and they are also provided with a lunch so no food from outside is taken into the building.

### **Support**

Don't forget we are still all here to help you as much as we can. We have fixed computer problems, we have delivered extra resources to homes, we make regular check ins, we provide telephone support and other small gestures to encourage you all to stay positive. If there is anything that worries you And you think we may be able to help, just ask. If we don't know the answer we can try and find someone who does. Take care everyone. Stay safe!

