

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

St Andrew's Road, Dinas Powys,

Vale of Glamorgan, CF64 4HB

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Dear Parents/Carers

Thursday 21st May 2020

Yet another month has passed as we enter what would have been half term. I do hope this letter finds everyone fit and healthy and that you are coping with what is a difficult time for everyone.

Hub

All staff who are able continue to volunteer to work shifts in the Hub in Dinas Powys Primary School which is providing essential childcare for children of Key Workers 7 days a week. The Local Authority has assessed access and there will be some changes to the times and days of this provision in the next few weeks. Those parents who are using the Hub will be informed directly and the forms on the Vale website will be adjusted accordingly.

Well-Being

This week is Mental Health Awareness week and never has concern over this area been greater. Whilst we cannot physically be in school to support pupils and families at the moment, there may be other ways we can do this. I hope you and your children enjoyed receiving a phone-call from the teachers in the last few weeks. It was no mean feat, sometimes taking 4 or 5 calls to contact some families and in some cases they were not successful. If you have not received your call, please email your teacher to arrange for contact after half term. Some of our support staff are trained in methods specifically aimed at supporting pupils with anxiety or mental well-being issues. If you think contact with a member of support staff could be of benefit to your child, please contact your class teacher or the school office to discuss. Barnardo's are also offering a counselling service for children and young people at this time. See the attached information and please note, this can be done directly and does not need to be accessed via a school referral.

Admissions

All places for Reception and Nursery for September 2020 have now been issued. Thank you to Mrs Green and Mrs Goddard for carrying out this task which has been more challenging this year. We do not know what the situation will be in schools in the next few months but we will find ways to ensure transition is as smooth as possible and look forward to welcoming the children when it is safe to do so.

Distance Learning

Thank you for your continued support with the task of helping your children with their learning from home. With half term next week, staff will not be putting work on Hwb but will continue to update Bug Club where necessary. Work will then be added for June 1st. As I have said before, we really do not want to add to what is an already stressful time and we are leaving it for you to decide when and how much your child is working. If you have any issues accessing or completing the work on Hwb, please remember you can contact your child's class teacher via the email addresses below. If you are struggling with the work due to it being online, please do email us and we will see if there is anything we can do to help. Similarly if you are having any issues with technology, let us know as we may be able to help. We have loaned a further 3 laptops out this week and the Local Authority also has access to devices to help with internet access if families are struggling. Please email your child's class teacher or the school email address if there is anything we can do to make it possible or easier for your child/ren to continue learning.

Nursery (Mrs Bayliss)	BaylissJ26@hwbcymru.net
Reception (Mrs Lewis)	LewisK56@hwbcymru.net
Year 1 (Mrs Day – Mon-Weds / Mr Walters Weds-Fri)	DayL20@hwbcymru.net WaltersG@hwbcymru.net
Year 2 (Mrs Bounds)	HalseR2@hwbcymru.net
Year 3 (Miss Frangoulis)	FrangoulisS1@hwbcymru.net
Year 4 (Miss Bush)	BushJ21@hwbcymru.net
Year 5 (Mrs Owen Mon-Weds / Mr Mason Weds-Fri)	OwenH32@hwbcymru.net MasonP2@hwbcymru.net
Year 6 (Mr McNicol)	mcnicola@hwbcymru.net

If you need to contact the school, admin staff and I will be able to receive the school emails on the usual address standrewsmajorps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Admin staff are in school on Mondays to pick up messages so you can phone then if you would prefer.

A message for the children from The Children’s Commissioner for Wales

‘You’ve been staying home to stay safe over the last few weeks. People who can help to make a difference to your life want to listen to how you have felt about having to do this because of the Coronavirus and any effect it has had on you.’

Please use the link below to access a survey from the Commissioner. It is for young people and children to complete but obviously some younger children may need your help.

<https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/coronavirusandme/>

Finally

Yesterday was ‘Thank a Teacher Day’. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers for all their work over this period. There is a lot of work going on behind the scenes and as always, the staff have approached the demands on them with professionalism, commitment and most importantly care for their pupils. No doubt they will be busy writing their reports next week as well as doing shifts in the Hub and preparing the next set of distance learning. However, I would like to wish all the staff and you a good half term break - hopefully the sun will keep shining!

As I said before, we may not have all the answers, but the Local Authority may be able to point us in the direction of someone who does. We are here, as always, to serve and support our pupils and families. Please do contact us if there is anything we can help you with.

Take care of yourselves and each other and please stay safe.

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. (Luke 24 50-53)

