

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday 22nd January 2021

I hope you are all managing to stay safe and that no one was adversely affected by the horrendous weather and flooding this week.

Remote Learning

As we reach the end of the third week and after two full weeks of remote learning, I want to thank you for your continued support and especially for the many positive emails and phone calls we are receiving about the work set, the instructional videos and the feedback from the teachers. I am also pleased to hear that many of you are finding the use of See-saw preferable to Hwb. I have been looking at some of the children's work and I am very impressed with what has been going on. Keep up the good work everyone. My continued thanks to the teaching staff for the effort that is going in to the remote learning.

It is also important to mention that we do recognise that many parents/families are struggling – due to work commitments and/or the challenges of home schooling. It can become overwhelming at times – even for me, with over 20 years' experience in education! As I have said many times during the last lockdown period, please do not allow yourself (and more importantly) the children to get upset or anxious. We are here to help if we can – please contact your child's teacher via email in the first instance.

We are starting to compile a list of those children who appear to be carrying out little or no work on See-saw and will be making contact if we have not already done so. Please do not see this as a criticism. We are simply trying to find out if there are any ways in which we can help. Teachers are very busy online all day so it may be that they email you in the first instance. Alternatively, you may receive a phone call from one of our support staff, Mrs. Brown or Mrs. Dimond.

Devices and Internet

There are things we or the Local Authority can also do to help with internet issues and lack of devices etc. Please let us know ASAP if you are still having any issues with this (email or phone the school office).

Live Meetings

Today, Mr McNicol and I held 2 live meetings using *GoToMeeting* with Year 6 as a trial. It was so lovely to see the children and I am sure they loved seeing some of their classmates. We will repeat this for Year 6 next week and will now be looking to roll out meetings for other junior classes in the next few weeks. The focus will be very much on well-being, catching up and seeing friends. Please note, a few issues we encountered were around the microphones and speakers.

Also, laptops and desktop computers are preferable if you have the option as this enables the children to see everyone on the screen at once.

Provision for Key Workers

Well done to the children who are coming into school whilst their key worker parents are in work. I am very proud of how well they are behaving and working, considering it is all very different than usual school. Thank you to the support staff who are working hard to care for the children and help them carry out some of their see-saw work and thank you to our critical workers at this time.

Just a reminder that application forms for Nursery intake for September 2021 will be sent out on Monday.

My prayers are with everyone at this difficult and worrying time. Stay safe everyone and try to have a relaxing weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Headteacher

Our value this half term is Perseverance. Never have we needed it more!

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance produces character; and character produces hope. (Romans 5: 3-4)