

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Tuesday 17th March 2020

PUPIL WORK IF SCHOOL IS CLOSED

At the moment we are still open as usual. However, we are putting into place plans for possible closure in the future. This could be as a result of a government decision to close all schools or if we get to a point where we cannot run the school safely due to the numbers of staff who have had to self-isolate.

Today, all children from Reception to Year 6 will be bringing home an exercise book in which will be log in information for access to resources such as Bug Club, Hwb etc. Although this is probably very early, we feel it important to be prepared. If your child is already at home, please arrange to collect it (if it is safe for you to do so) or maybe ask another parent to pick it up for you. If neither of these are an option, contact the office. Nursery logins will be attached to the children's keyrings.

Hwb

<https://hwb.gov.wales/>

Hwb will be used as the means for communication from teachers during a closure. Hwb is a website and collection of online tools provided to all schools in Wales by the Welsh Government. It has an amazing range of resources including Encyclopaedia Britannica and also access to Office 365 with free on-line versions of Word, PowerPoint, Excel etc. For new Nursery pupils, please return the consent form sent home this week, otherwise your child will not be able to access these secure areas of Hwb.

Class areas have been set up for each year group and staff will add activities and learning plans as and when is necessary. The staff will also provide links to other websites (which could be accessed at any time from now) as well as some ideas for things to do which do not rely on a screen.

I have created some screen shots at the foot of this letter to guide you through the logging on and navigation process. We also attach the Hwb guidance for parents leaflet.

Please note, the activities are for a period of school closure and should not be carried out prior to this. The staff are gradually going to be adding to the areas over the coming days and will continue to do so during any closure period. The intention will be to put on work for 2 weeks at a time depending on if/when we close.

We have logged in every child and all accounts and passwords work. However, I urge you to try your child's log in as soon as possible in order for us to help if there are any issues with it.

Bug Club reading scheme

Staff will be ensuring these accounts are updated regularly in the event of closure.

TT Rockstars and Numbots (for relevant classes)

These can be accessed in the usual way.

Nursery/Reception

Given the nature of learning for the younger children, the staff have been preparing booklets and activities which the children will also be bringing home. It is envisaged that these activities would last approximately 4 weeks and then, if necessary, the staff will add further resources to Hwb. Please do not start the booklets until the time of closure.

Finally

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing, dedicated staff. These are very worrying times and although there is a lot of reassurance that children are a low risk group, this is not the case for the adults who are surrounded by them every day. As well as currently carrying out their job of educating, there is also the more important job of keeping the children safe and to reduce the risk of anxiety and fear. As staffing is reduced, this also puts extra pressure on those still in school. Whilst all this is going on they are being asked to plan work for school closures which they are doing mostly in their own time. Admin staff are also busy with helping to prepare this whilst still dealing with the day to day roles such as end of year finances and answering the increasingly busy phones. Until the time of school closure, I will not be putting extra expectations on staff to provide work for those at home. I ask that you are patient and respectful to all members of staff at this time of increased pressure on us all.

Any queries, please contact your class teacher or me via the office or leave a message with a member of staff on the playground in the morning.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett
Headteacher

(Please find Hwb screenshots below)

