



Ysgol Llanfechain

**Llanfechain Church in Wales School**  
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Acting Executive Headteacher: Mrs Catherine Hart

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Dear parents/carers,

### **School News**

As we finish a school year like no other, I want to wish everyone a very happy summer holidays and say a huge thank you for all your support this year. Even though school as we knew it ended on 20<sup>th</sup> March, we have been able to carry on together, finding new and exciting ways of 'being us', whilst not all being together. It has been both challenging and rewarding, and we have even managed some of the traditional end of term events – a Virtual Sports Day and Leaver's Service. We are looking forward to September, when everyone will be in school again, and another exciting new year with some new faces and many old ones too.

As a school we are saying a very fond farewell to all our Year 6 pupils: Alfie, Archie, Lenny, Hester, Aliye, Tobin and Charlie are moving on to local secondary schools, and to Finn and Livy who have moved to France. We will miss you all and wish you all the best.

We are also saying a sad farewell to Mrs Milne, who has worked at the school for 26 years. I'm sure you will agree that she will be missed, and we are very grateful for all her years of dedication to the school. We are also saying goodbye to Miss Pugh as a class teacher at Llanfechain. She will be teaching at Llangedwyn, and so will be back regularly to see everyone. We really appreciate the years of hard work she has given to the school in a variety of roles.

In September we will be welcoming 3 new members of staff. Miss Bethany Roberts will be teaching 2 days a week in the Infants, on a Thursday and Friday; Miss Sian Williams will be working as a Teaching Assistant for 4 days a week and Mrs Vicky Hepworth will be our new school cleaner.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on either 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> September. I have emailed out your child(ren)'s start date, so if you have not received it please let me know. Everyone will be in school to together from 7<sup>th</sup> September. Breakfast and After School Club will reopen from the 7<sup>th</sup> onwards too.

## **Return to School: What to expect**

When school starts again in September there will be some changes, and I wanted to let you know how things will work before the term ends to give you time to talk about what school will be like with your children during the holiday. As much as we would prefer to have things go back to usual, we are not going to be able to do this. Our main priorities are to ensure that all pupils and staff can be safe while they are at school, and that we create a learning environment which enables them to blossom and grow. We appreciate things might seem awkward, or even very rule bound, but it has to be this way for a while so that we can meet our priorities.

### **Social Distancing**

Pupils will be encouraged to socially distance during the school day, but we are realistic about the fact that this is not always possible or appropriate. In the classroom, pupils will be sitting next to each other at desks, but all desks will face forward, and pupils will not be seated facing each other. We will be asking pupils not to touch or hug each other, or members of staff. Adults within the school will stay 2m apart as much as possible, and also 2m from the children. Some PPE will be used when administering first aid.

### **School drop off/pick up times**

All families will be allocated a time to drop off/pick up time for their children. This is to reduce to the need for a lot of people to be on the school site at the same time. It will make social distancing much easier and reduce queuing time. A member of school staff will need to speak to parents as your child is dropped off, to check on their health and wellbeing. At the end of the day the member of staff will speak to you to let you know how the day has gone. Parents are asked not to come into the school building. The children should have all their belongings in one bag, and a coat with them each day. Please use the following link to indicate the times you are planning to bring/pick up you children from school, so we can allocate times to each family.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Uq4\\_TzS3ZEGUCRtgHRR5k1yPVMIAItZFIVZG4LaiePxUMktGNUIMSEpVSzZURzZHNDY2NVRGQUwyQi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Uq4_TzS3ZEGUCRtgHRR5k1yPVMIAItZFIVZG4LaiePxUMktGNUIMSEpVSzZURzZHNDY2NVRGQUwyQi4u)

Please can you fill this form in as soon as possible to give us time to arrange staff cover.

### **School drop off/pick up locations**

If your child is coming to Breakfast Club, or being picked up from After School Club, then they will need to be picked up from the hall door. There will be a doorbell on that entrance so that you can let staff know you are there.

If you are picking up your child at school start /end times and your child is in the Infants, then you should come onto the school grounds by the hall gate and queue by the gate to the infant outdoor area (there will be social distancing markers on the ground). You will leave the grounds by walking across the front of the school.

If you are dropping off/picking up your child from the Junior Class then you will go to the main school entrance. You will enter the school grounds via the car park gate and leave the grounds by walking across the playground and out of the hall gate.

There will be sign posts on all the entrances, so please don't worry if this seems confusing or you forget.

## **School Uniform**

In September we would like all children to come in their school uniforms. I have sent an email to everyone today with a school uniform order form. Uniform can be paid for via ParentPay. We suggest that children wear either black leggings or jogging bottoms on their legs so that they are always ready of outdoor learning or PE. We would also suggest that children have dark trainers (that they can do up themselves) as footwear, that will be suitable for physical activity. Children should bring in a pair of wellies in a plastic bag that can stay on their pegs in school. This will enable all children to take part in activities fully, whether we are inside or out.

## **School Lunches**

Powys Catering will resume their services in September, so you can choose whether to send your child with a packed lunch or purchase a school dinner. Dinner orders will be taken daily. The provision of free school meals will also resume for those people who are entitled to them.

## **What to bring to school:**

It is important that children only bring the essentials to school each day. These include:

- Water bottle
- Waterproof coat
- Sunscreen (depending on the weather)
- Sun hat (depending on the weather)
- Healthy fruit snack for breaktime
- Packed lunch if not having a school dinner
- Reading book

These belongings should be packed into one bag that will be hung on their peg in school.

## **Pupil Groups**

Llanfechain school will be split into 2 groups of pupils, the Infant and the Junior Classes. Each group will be kept separate from the other, including breaktime, lunchtimes and before and after school clubs. At times this will be in different parts of the school, and at other times it will be within the hall, which will be divided to allow for social distancing.

## **Reading Books and work from home**

Children will be given reading books again in September. When the book is returned to school they will be cleaned or quarantined before another child is given them. Pupils are encouraged to bring in any work done at home, but this will be quarantined for 72 hours before members of staff can look at it.

## **Speaking to School Staff**

Parents will not be able to come into the school, but staff are always happy to speak to you about any concerns. It is advised that you ring the school office and make an appointment. The member of staff will either meet you outside, or will telephone you, depending on what you prefer.

## **Forgotten Items**

If you forget anything in the morning that is needed for school, we will have a plastic box at the school gate (the internal gate onto the playground, just past the fairy tree) to drop items in. Ring the school to let us know that something has been put in the box and we will come out to collect it straight away.

## **Illness**

If your child is unwell then they should be kept at home. Please notify the school about the reason for the absence. If someone living with the child is self-isolating, everyone in the household should isolate with them. If your child is sent home from school because they are unwell, staff will advise whether self-isolation will be necessary.

I do apologise for what seems like a long list of rules, they are part of our measures to keep everyone safe. They do not change the fact that we are always happy to talk to you as parents and will make sure that we find ways to keep in touch and you up to date with all aspects of your child's life at school. We are still the same close school community and will adapt to the challenges we are currently facing.

The time spent in school by pupils this term has demonstrated that despite all the new rules and changes to their routines, your children thrive being back in school. Their insatiable curiosity and can-do attitude to life prevail. This means the school will be its usual happy, bustling, family orientated community, despite these changes. We are looking forward to everyone being together very much, and hope you are too.

## **Diolch yn Fawr**

I want to say a huge thank you for the support you have given to your children's learning, and to the school since March 20<sup>th</sup>. As a staff we have been so impressed to what some people have achieved at home.

If you have any questions or worries about things in this letter, or any aspect of your child's school life, please don't hesitate to contact me. This can be done either by email, or on the school mobile number, which I will be checking regularly.

Take care and enjoy the holidays,

Catherine, and all the Llanfechain School Staff