



# Ysgol Tanyfron

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Headteacher / Pennaeth: Mr D S Lloyd

Chair of Governors: Mr S Wynne

14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

## School Update – 14th December 2021

Dear Parent/Guardians,

Well unfortunately, it looked like I spoke too soon in regards to school not closing early. Now I have wiped the egg of my face I can confirm all the arrangements moving forward between now and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

As stated yesterday we will continue to run as normal this week with all planned activities taking place. These are –

- Wednesday 15th December – Key Stage 2 Pro Skill Soccer (Lunchtime)
- Thursday 16th December – Key Stage 2 Christmas Dinner
- Friday 17th December – Christmas Jumper & Party Day

However as stated by the local authority yesterday schools will move to online learning for the period Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December due to the ongoing and continued rise in COVID-19 cases. As a result of this decision school will be preparing a range of activities for pupils to undertake over these three days. As I am sure you can imagine, the last few days in school especially at Christmas are based around festive activities and craft. Therefore our planned activities will be festive based and hopefully provide a little Christmas cheer. Each individual class teacher will share with you how these activities will be shared.

Also stated in the letter was that schools across the authority would be providing provision for vulnerable learners and the children of critical workers where required. Following further communications overnight and this morning on the criteria for this provision, I can confirm that the main reason for the local authority taking this decision was to minimise the risk of transmission and to stop/slow down the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, an application/request for the use of key worker provision should only be used if **no** other alternative childcare arrangements can be made/found.

This approach has left schools needing to enforce a strict criteria/guidance for key worker provision to ensure the safety of pupils, parents/guardians and staff members. Before requesting key worker provision, parents/guardians are asked to consider the following points –

- Parents/guardians themselves have looked at all available options within the family household to provide childcare arrangements for the three-day period.
- Parents/guardians are reminded that current guidelines state there are no restrictions on family care so parents/guardians are asked to seek support from family members for childcare provision as a priority.
- Where no family member can offer childcare to access the provision both parents/guardians will need to be confirmed as key workers against the Welsh government criteria list. The list of critical workers can be found in the following guidance:- [Identifying children of critical workers: guidance |](#)

[GOV.WALES](#) (Please note – where both parents/guardians feel they meet the criteria the local authority/school will check each job description against the guidance to ensure it meets the criteria)

- Parents/guardians are also reminded that current Welsh Government guidance is for individuals to work from home where possible.
- Parents/guardians will be asked to provide evidence of their work rota / shift pattern for the three-day period and the month of December to ensure that the working pattern is regular and not different to what drop off/pick up pattern school normally witnesses.

As in previous periods of online learning school will be providing the key worker provision from 08.55am until 15.00pm. (Nursery provision – 08.55am – 11.25am) Previously parents/guardians have been able to use the service at any point throughout the day for example a morning session (08.55am – 12.00pm) due to shift patterns, and this of course will be available this time around.

Unfortunately, there will be **NO** breakfast club during this period. However, pupils accessing the key worker provision will be offered a breakfast upon school commencing at 08.55am. I must remind parents/guardians that the way in which school runs the key worker provision pupils of all ages will be mixed together and form a new working group/bubble.

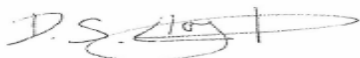
With the main reason for the switch to online learning focusing around minimising the risk of transmission and to stop/slow down the spread of COVID-19 I can confirm that following discussions with Katie and the team at Dragons Daycare they have taken the decision to **close** from **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December**. Whilst not an easy decision for the Dragons team the closure helps to ensure safety and minimise the risk of transmission.

If any parent/guardian feels that they need key worker provision, I ask that all requests are made to your child(ren)s class teacher via SEESAW by **12.00pm, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**. This timeframe will then allow us to plan for staffing ratios and collect all the supporting information from parents/guardians prior to the end of term.

Whilst I appreciate that the end of term is now very abrupt for the majority of our pupils and the criteria for accessing key worker provision is very difficult I do believe the decision made by the local authority is correct.

Can I thank you for your continued support and understanding to date and take this opportunity to wish you a very prosperous and enjoyable Christmas and New Year (whilst keeping safe!!) Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us in school.

Yours sincerely



Mr D. Lloyd  
Headteacher