



Johnstown Primary School Ysgol Gynradd Tre Ioan

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Head Teacher/Prifathro
Mr K McComas

12th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that my message finds you all well and coping in our concerning and every changing situation. While our lock down period continues, Welsh Government have issued a statement to clarify our way forward over the coming weeks and months – the following link provides the most recent information:

<https://gov.wales/situation-schools-will-not-change-june-1st-education-minister-says>

Thank you once again for your resilience and hard work during these times in supporting your child/children at home - I do hope that the support by staff is helping you in this process.

While the news we are receiving is preventing a safe return to school, I thought I would provide you with some positive news to share with your child/ren. As a school we have prioritised Outdoor Learning for the last year and this has been a focus for our fundraising efforts by the 'Friends of Johnstown'. Over the lock down period, we have managed to create two wonderful Outdoor Classrooms and areas for the pupils - I am sure they will look forward to using them! Please see the links of the pictures and a video of the construction - somehow, I ended up on the digger!

- Photographs of the Outdoor Learning Areas:
<https://www.j2e.com/johnstown-primary-school/Mr+C/Outdoor+Learning+Areas/>
- Drone Video: <https://youtu.be/r17zbF82Va0>
- Mr McComas on the Digger:
<https://www.j2e.com/johnstown-primary-school/Mr+C/Outdoor+Learning+Building+Work/KM+Digger>

The first Outdoor Classroom area is based on the design voted and designed by the pupils when they were in school. The second Outdoor Classroom area, 'The Secret Garden', has been developed from the environmental book, 'The Lost Words' that the pupils have been studying - the Governors, Staff and I were lost for words after it was built!

It has taken an enormous amount of work to create these Outdoor Areas during these difficult times and so many people near and far to thank, in particular the Staff and Governors. I would also like to say a special thanks to the 'Friends' and parents for valuing and supporting the school with these outdoor projects - in the next home learning activities sent out by staff, we will be setting a competition for pupils to name these Outdoor Classrooms!

I will keep you updated with any news I receive - and thank you for the kind words and cards that have been sent into school by families, they mean a great deal.

Kind regards

Kevin McComas
Head Teacher