



Johnstown Primary School Ysgol Gynradd Tre Ioan

Heol Salem
Johnstown
Carmarthenshire
SA31 3HS
01267 236653
admin@johnstown.ysgolccc.cymru

Head Teacher/Prifathro
Mr K McComas

10th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that my message finds you all in good health and you are coping well during these challenging times. As a school, we fully appreciate the efforts that you have made during this time, by continuing your child/ren's education at home. As you are aware the programme for Home Learning has close links with digital elements, via your child/ren's regular engagement with the Hwb Learning Platform. That being the case, there have been several enquiries from parents about the J2Message chat forum of late.

This feature was created by J2E as a communicative tool for pupils to remain in contact with their peers and teachers during the lockdown period. As it is an educational tool, sitting within the Welsh Governments HWB learning platform, learners are required to conform to the 'Acceptable Use Agreement' that is updated by our school annually to reflect changes in policy and online behaviours. Please see the links below for further details:

Pupils Agreement - <https://www.j2e.com/johnstown-primary-school/Mr+C/AUPs/HwbAcceptableUsePupils.pdf>

Parents Agreement - <https://www.j2e.com/johnstown-primary-school/Mr+C/AUPs/Hwb+Acceptable+UseParents.pdf>

Furthermore, teachers are duty bound to monitor the content posted daily within this forum in order to moderate the content and disable this feature, should their professional judgement dictate that there are potential safeguarding issues or failures to adhere to the rules set out by the school's 'Acceptable Use Agreement'. It is unfortunate that this has become unmanageable and a minority have engaged in inappropriate use of this tool, despite being give some prior notification to exercise caution and consider the guidance outlined by the SMART rules for internet safety. Please see the link to our 'Cryw Craff Digital Council' page on our school website, which references the SMART rules:

<http://johnstown.amdro.org.uk/home/wellbeing/cryw-craff/>

As a school we regularly educate your child/ren about online dangers, whilst also encouraging a spirit of ethical online behaviour and positive digital citizenship. Subsequently, the decision has been made to disable the group chat feature within J2Message whilst you continue to educate your children from home. Your child/ren will still be able to contact their teacher directly using J2Message, should the need arise. Whilst we are distance learning, it has not been possible to have face-to-face discussions with our learners to outline the specific guidance for appropriate and safe use of the group chat feature within J2Message. We will review this decision at a later date, following the reopening of schools. Until then, we hope that you appreciate our choice to disable this feature as a means of ensuring the online safety and wellbeing of all our pupils.

Kindest regards,

Mr D Cousins
Digital Learning Leader