



# Johnstown Primary School Ysgol Gynradd Tre Ioan

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Head Teacher/Prifathro  
Mr K McComas

11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are well. I am sure you are aware of the potential school closures next week. The Local Authority have informed us that this decision has to be made at local level. Governors and I are conscious that this is a difficult decision to make as there are many risk factors to consider.

All schools in the Local Authority are in different positions – some have high incidents of positive cases, some do not have enough staff to keep the school open safely, therefore they are inclined to close.

### **Our decision is that the school will remain open next week.**

We are in a strong position to remain open as we have had very few incidents of positive cases since the start of the term and staff and pupil attendance has been very good. I am very grateful to the staff for their outstanding efforts in keeping us all safe and to all parents for the support in the systems that we have in place. I also have to mention the pupils, who have displayed strong resilience this term, are making very good progress, and should be commended for their perseverance and positive attitudes - we want this to continue.

I can confirm that Breakfast Club and the private After-School Club will remain open - I am aware these services assist childcare arrangements for parents and the running of the school. I would encourage parents to use these services only if they have to. We will however be increasing our COVID safe measures, next week, to minimise risk of infection as we move closer towards the Christmas holiday. For example, at lunchtimes pupils who have sandwiches will eat in the classroom, increased frequency of handwashing, increasing social distancing, where possible, and further restrictions of bubble movements around the school.

I would also urge parents to ensure that they drop off and pick up their children at the times their class has been allocated. This staggered approach is to minimise gatherings.

I am aware that a growing number of parents have contacted the school to inform staff that their children will not be attending school next week – this is in order to isolate and protect their Christmas break. This decision will be respected; however, the school will be open next week, and no work will be provided for pupils who are not in attendance.

I hope that you will support the decision that Governors and I have made. These are very challenging times for schools and I appreciate your partnership in the education of your child/ren. If you have any further concerns, please contact the School Office on 01267 236653.

Kind regards

**Kevin McComas**  
Head Teacher