



# Johnstown Primary School Ysgol Gynradd Tre Ioan

Head Teacher/Prifathro  
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Dear Parents

I hope that you are well and ready for our Christmas break. This term has been very challenging but, together, we have made it work to ensure that your child/ren's education continues as normally as we can. Thank you for your support and faith in the school. We are "not out of the woods yet". There is much uncertainty regarding the intensity of the virus and therefore the decision to open schools as normal in the new term remains in the balance.

You have been provided with a letter today from the Director of Education that confirms potential arrangements for January opening. As Head Teacher, the decision for the school to remain fully open is often difficult, and I have to consider many risk factors. From the information I have received today, I therefore confirm the following:

## **Spring Term Arrangements**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January** – INSET Day (school closed, no childcare or remote learning).

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January** – School closed to **all** pupils. If school is not open on Thursday and Friday you will be informed on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January of the Blended Learning arrangements for online learning. You will also be informed of Emergency Childcare arrangements.

**On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am** school staff will be arranging a well-being catch-up with all pupils on Teams online. More details on this will be sent on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. This will also be an opportunity to check connectivity and your access to Teams online. If you have difficulty accessing online learning, please inform us on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January so that we can make alternative arrangements.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January** – We may be able to return to school, however, if the risk level is high then Blended Learning online from home will be adopted. I will inform you of this decision on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, once evaluations and risk assessments have been made.

**Emergency Childcare Hub (if required)** – There will be limited spaces for an Emergency Childcare Hub for children of critical workers, if the school is closed. This is due to the staffing levels that we currently have in place and the requirement for the school to safely operate Blended Online Learning and a Childcare Hub simultaneously. If staff are unavailable due to illness, I may have to close the Childcare Hub, therefore, please only use the service if all other options are exhausted. Information regarding the Childcare Hub will be sent out on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January if the decision is made to close the school on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January. The Emergency Childcare Hub will be open from 9.00am to 3.00pm only and a packed lunch/snacks will be required.

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January** – We expect the school to open fully for all pupils except for new Nursery pupils. If the decision is made to close this week and revert to Blended Online Learning, then I will inform you as soon as possible – either Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January at the latest.

If the school is **fully** open then the Breakfast Club and the private After School Club will also be available. I urge you to only use these services in an emergency – this will minimise the risk of infection.

### **Santa Visits Johnstown Primary**

We had an exciting start to our day on Tuesday with Santa landing on the school roof then appearing in the Outdoor Classroom! All the pupils in school saw Santa, had a jolly time and, because they had been good, received a present. Please see the link below:



### **[Santa Visits Johnstown Primary](#)**

For those pupils who did not attend the event, don't worry, we have kept your gift from Santa and you will receive it when you return next term. A special thank you to Mrs Bloomfield and her team of Santa's Helpers for organising the event.

## School Christmas Hamper Winners



Congratulations to Ahmad & Oliwia – NJ, Daisy – RBE, Adam – RBS, Cai – 1D, Elizabeth – 1H, Poppy – 2C, Ava – 2G, Oliver – 3B, Isaak – 3M, Leo & Alicja – 4H, Ella – 5C, James – 5CC, Filip – 6D and Gabby – 6L for winning a Christmas Hamper. Many thanks to all parents who donated to the hampers and to staff for preparing the feasts! A total of £807 was raised for school funds; we will use the funds to further develop our outdoor classrooms.

## Christmas Jumper Day

Our last day was full of fun and laughter – the Christmas Jumpers were a special treat. Thank you for joining in with the festivities – as always, there was an air of excitement for Christmas!



## Oak Tree Planting – Town Council



The Town Council has been planting oak trees around the town for future generations to enjoy. We have planted our oak tree on the edge of our new meadow – I am sure it will thrive and become a prominent feature of our school.

Many thanks to the Year 6 Eco Councillors, Abbey, Freya and Gregory for planting the tree.

## Nativity Performance

I hope you have had a chance to see the Nativity performance. Thank you to parents who have sent messages to the school – I am glad you enjoyed this lovely Christmas story and a message of hope.

On behalf of the staff and Governors, may I wish you all a Merry Christmas with your family; we all hope for a healthy and Happy New Year.

Keep safe



**Kevin McComas**  
**Head Teacher**

