



Mrs R O'Neill  
**Pennaeth / Headteacher**

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

### **RE: School Closure**

I am sure you will have seen the announcement from Welsh Government that schools in Wales will now remain closed to all but looked after children and children of key workers until the February half-term unless there is a significant fall in COVID cases.

This being the case, class teachers will continue to provide pupils with home learning best suited to their needs. Please contact school if you have any concerns.

The statement from First Minister Mark Drakeford below reflects the current situation in Wales.

*First Minister Mark Drakeford today said everyone must stay at home to save lives as he confirmed the alert level four coronavirus restrictions in Wales will continue.*

*The lockdown restrictions will be strengthened in some key areas to prevent the new, highly-infectious strain of the virus spreading from person to person in those shops and workplaces which remain open.*

*And unless there is a significant reduction in cases of coronavirus before 29 January – the date of the next three-week review of the regulations – school and college students will continue to learn online until the February half term.*

*Cases of coronavirus remain very high in Wales and the new variant strain of the virus – first identified in parts of Wales, London and South East England before Christmas – now has a firm foothold in North Wales.*

*First Minister Mark Drakeford said:*

*“The coronavirus pandemic has reached a significant point. Cases in Wales remain very high and our NHS is under real and sustained pressure.*

*“The alert level four restrictions we introduced before Christmas must remain in place to keep us all safe. To slow the spread of the virus, we all must stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives.*

*“These feel like dark times but the new Covid-19 vaccines are being rolled out across Wales, giving us a path out of this pandemic.*

*“It will take a huge effort to vaccinate everyone and, despite the end of this pandemic being in sight, it is more important than ever that we follow the rules and stay at home. We have made so many sacrifices together and we mustn't stop now.”*

*Following a formal review of the alert level four lockdown restrictions, which were introduced at midnight on 19 December, all the measures will remain in place.*

*This means non-essential retail, hospitality venues, licensed premises and leisure facilities will remain closed.*

*The measures will be strengthened to close all showrooms. They will still be able to operate click and collect arrangements.*



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*The Welsh Government is also reviewing whether major supermarkets and retailers need to put additional measures in place to protect people in store and what else employers need to do to protect people in the workplace and support people to work from home.*

*The First Minister is reminding people that in the current lockdown people must:*

- *Stay at home.*
- *Work from home if you can.*
- *Keep a 2m distance from others.*
- *Wear a face covering in all indoor public places.*
- *Not meet anyone outside your immediate household or support bubble.*

*The First Minister added:*

*“This new strain adds a new and unwelcome dimension to the pandemic.*

*“Wherever there’s mixing; wherever people come together, the new strain is spreading – it is highly transmissible and spreads very quickly from person to person.*

*“We all must stay at home, protect the NHS, and save lives. Together, we will keep Wales safe.”*

Please stay safe at home.

Sincerely



Rhona O'Neill  
Headteacher



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Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes



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