



Update from the Headteacher

Wednesday 3rd June

Dear Parent/Carer,

Many of you will have listened to the Education Minister's statement during the Welsh Government Coronavirus briefing today.

The minister closed schools at the end of March and since then schools have remained open providing childcare for key worker and vulnerable children, including during the Easter and half term holiday. School staff have also provided home learning activities and have been in contact with you and your children through learning platforms and by telephone.

The minister has announced today that:

- Statutory schooling will re- start - schools will open on 29th June 2020;
- Schools will be open to all year groups, for limited periods;
- Only a third of pupils will be in school at one time;
- Schools will need time to reach this level;
- All children will have the opportunity to 'check in, catch up & prepare for the summer and September';
- Schools and local councils will make their own decisions on how this is managed;
- The summer term will be extended by one week and therefore the summer term will now end on Monday July 27th;
- The autumn term half term break will also be extended by a week.

As a school, we have been planning for a wide range of scenarios. We have heard the announcement at the same time as you. We will now take some time to further plan and prepare and I will work with the Governing body, Local Authority, Welsh Government and cluster schools to develop plans, procedures, policies and robust risk assessments in order for this to be achieved with the safety of children, staff and parents as the main priority.

There will be much guidance issued to me in the next few hours and days. I will need to ensure that we follow this and that this is used to create safe, practical operating systems that all understand and adhere to. Whilst I will do all that I can to ensure the warm, welcoming nature of our school is maintained, safety procedures and routines will mean that daily schooling will look different to the time before school closed in March, as the minister mentioned.

For the next three weeks, the same arrangements will remain in place regarding home learning activities.

I will keep you updated regularly of progress and will provide you with detailed information in a timely manner about what such a 'return to school' will look like at Bassaleg so that you can make informed decisions as parents on whether your children will be attending. I have sent this update ahead of my regular communication on Friday as I anticipate many of you will be considering what such plans will look like; please be reassured that I will next be in touch when I have more specific plans to share with each of you.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this time. Please continue to take good care of yourselves.

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Victoria Lambe
Headteacher