

# April Newsletter



**You may think, "Why are we having a school newsletter, without any school news?", but I am keen to continue as much 'normal' as I can during these strange times and although this newsletter will look different to the usual one, I hope you find it useful.**

I would like to start off by thanking you as parents and/or grandparents. Keeping your children happy during a scary time, helping with their home learning, continuing working at home or as a key worker and still getting food on the table at the end of the day. Well done you! Every family situation is different of course but after contacting you all during the past three weeks, it has been very refreshing to hear the positive stories about how you have been managing at home.

With regards to home learning, DON'T PANIC! We have tried to make it clear via emails, phone calls and video calls that you do not need to worry about their education. Yes, it may well be a concern, but we are in unrepresented times. All I can ask is that you encourage your pupils and make learning fun and not a chore.

Staff have been extremely busy creating learning packs which were sent out to all parents and staff are online everyday via HWB/Microsoft Teams, helping pupils and giving feedback for the tasks that have been sent in or returned via Teams or email. You do not have to spend time looking for tasks! We have sent them to you. Use these tasks with your children and do a little bit every day, if you can.

As mentioned, the phone calls to all families were useful for both you and us as teachers to gauge how things are going and we have taken your feedback from the survey and the calls on board. Please remember, this is unrepresented for us too! We are learning as we go along so please be patient. We always appreciate feedback because it means we can improve our service. Please contact us using [office@llanrhaeadr.powys.sch.uk](mailto:office@llanrhaeadr.powys.sch.uk) if you have any feedback or concerns but please remember, we are doing our best and are working hard to make sure that learning can continue in some form.

Staff have also been working at the Key Worker HUB in Llanfyllin. The HUB has been one of the great successes during this uncertain time and is now running smoothly to provide support for families who need last resort childcare. If you have any questions about the HUB then please email us using the above email address.

We are also busy holding regular meetings to make sure that all stakeholders including you as parents are up to date with everything. I am part of the cluster headteacher meetings which take place three times a week and we also hold meetings as a school twice a week, to make sure staff are up to date and to think of new ideas to improve home learning.

We hope that you and your children have found the live video calls useful. Again, it is new to us but as we get more practise, we will be able to achieve more using this form of teaching. Can I just remind you to always turn the camera off during calls and turn microphones off when asked as these are two important safeguarding rules.

Going forwards, I'd like to highlight some key tips for staying in touch with home learning and future updates.

1. Always keep a close eye on ParentMail. This is our platform for communication with you. Regular updates will always be posted via this method. If you are having problems with ParentMail it is important that you let us know.

2. Make learning a fun and stress-free task. Do not force strict routines. The pupils are fighting a difficult psychological battle between school and their home. They need to be doing some form of education, but it does not have to be a battle. Maybe introduce a reward system to help motivate them to do more work. We are working on ideas to help with motivation also as it is one of the biggest concerns after contacting parents.
3. Read with your child! Along with practising basic maths such as times tables and addition/subtraction, reading is vital and this needs to be a priority if isn't already.
4. Make the most of the time at home together. In between home learning, do fun tasks together as a family. We will remember this time for many years to come. Let's make sure the children remember a fun time with their families! Learn new skills together. There hasn't been a better time to learn new skills such as gardening, cooking and creative skills! This is also a form of education!
5. **Stay positive!** Who knows what will happen next? No one does, so it is important that we focus on what is happening now and not worry about what is around the corner.

At the time of writing this newsletter, I have no information about a return to school. When I do, I will share it with you! If it does happen before September, I can assure you that we will do everything that we can to make it safe for all involved.



I'd like to finish on a positive note. Next week, we will be launching the 2.6 (or 26) challenge and we would like to encourage all children from Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant school to get involved! Use the link below to find out more information. We want you to send us photos and videos and examples of work that children have done to celebrate the 2.6 challenge so that we can create a positive video to share with you all! Any money raised goes to helping charities all over the UK! More information will be sent out next week!

<https://www.twopointsixchallenge.co.uk/inspiration.html>

For now, stay safe and get in touch if we can help with anything at all. We are in this together!

Regards,

Mr Jonathan Richards

