

YSGOL OWEN JONES CP



Newsletter – 17th December 2021

Dear Parents

With this newsletter being the very last one for this year, I would like to take the opportunity in wishing everyone a safe, Happy Christmas and New Year. Your support and understanding during this the ever-changing situation regarding Coronavirus and the impact on schools is greatly appreciated. We hope 2022 will bring better times for all of us.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to the pupils, they have been wonderful throughout the term and have been a pleasure to work with and teach each day. We really are lucky to be working with them.

I am sure you would also like to join me in thanking the staff members who have once again gone above and beyond in many ways to ensure the teaching and learning has been as smooth as possible in what has been a very difficult period. I know they are looking forward to their well-earned Christmas break

School Closing and remote learning

As you are aware, today is now the last day of the term and the children will revert to remote learning on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st December.

As I am sure you are aware, if the children were in school we would have been completing Christmas craft type activities and taking part in Christmas games. Therefore, the activities we will provide for the children on Monday and Tuesday will be fun activities that the children can complete at home. We understand that not all children will complete them as they may be doing other activities, but they are there for those of you who want to access them. Due to the nature of the activities class teachers will not be providing any feedback.

The school will be open on Monday and Tuesday, therefore if you need any help or support please do not hesitate to contact the office by phone or email at ojmail@hwbbmail.net

Re-opening – 10th January

I hope you all had a chance to read the letter that I sent out yesterday regarding the school not re-opening for pupils now until **Monday 10th January**.

This came as a shock to all of us and highlights the concerns the Government have with the new Omicron strain. As I explained in the letter, the 6th and 7th of January will be 'Planning and Preparation' days to allow schools to assess staffing capacity and put the necessary measures in place to support the return of the children.

I will communicate all key information to you on **January 6th or 7th**, once we have a clear picture on how the school will be operating at the start of the Spring Term.

PTA Raffle

We are pleased to announce that we had 15 winners of the fantastic raffle prizes, the prizes consisted of 3 adult hampers, 1 kids hamper, 5 individual bottles and several gift wrapped cuddly toys.

Thank you again to everyone who donated items for the raffle and for your support in buying tickets. In total, we raised £151 through this raffle.

Christmas Concerts

The children all finished performing their Christmas concerts this week and they all did a fantastic job and performed brilliantly. A big well done to all of them and also to the staff members for all their hard work in planning the performances and all the hard work that goes into the rehearsals, making props and this year creating iMovies of each performance. As I am sure you can imagine this adds extra workload for the teachers.

As a school however, we felt it was extremely important that the children had the opportunity to take part and perform a full Christmas Concert as they normally would do and although parents were not there to watch it in person we hope you enjoy the iMovies that have been created.

Thank you also to yourselves for your support in helping the children learn their lines and providing costumes for the pupils.

The teachers have uploaded the Concerts to Seesaw or Google Classroom, but I have also added the link for each concert below.

If you have not watched them, you really are in for a treat.

<https://youtu.be/hRm9txyuxqs> - Class 1

<https://youtu.be/eRk176ZHwng> - Classes 2 and 3

<https://youtu.be/ZITuw7TBmBU> - Classes 4 and 5

Mantle videos – next week

As you will be aware, to help engage, motivate and provide a purpose to the pupils work we base our curriculum around the Mantle of the Expert approach, which is a dramatical approach to teaching and learning. Each class is presented with a problem / commission that they are trying to solve or complete and the majority of their work links to this problem or commission.

To demonstrate the work they have completed and the journey they have been on, each class has created a 'Mantle video'. These videos will be shared at the beginning of next week. I am sure you will be impressed with the work the children have completed.

Hopefully, by watching these videos you will also see the 'blended' and 'cross curricular' approach we are using which fits in perfectly with the New National Curriculum for Wales.

Christmas Gifts

Finally, the staff and I would like to thank everyone for their kind Christmas gifts and cards. We really appreciate your generosity and kind words.

Thank you once again for your continued support and understanding.

Mr Caughter and the Team.