

Llansannor & Llanharry Church in Wales Primary School 'The Mountain School'

Headteacher: Mrs S. Prosser



30th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

FAO Key Workers - Emergency childcare provision under a new HUB model

Please see statement below from the Local Authority:

As you will be aware, the Coronavirus pandemic has resulted in Welsh Government being required to make rapid decisions and changing the way in which schools operate, and as a local authority, we are ensuring we follow national guidance.

This week, all schools across the Vale of Glamorgan have provided childcare for children of key workers from their own schools. This has been the preferred model of the local authority and schools and I suspect parents and carers too, but we now realise this is not sustainable. As the Coronavirus progresses, many schools will struggle to staff a childcare provision due to staff sickness and self-isolation. So, in working with a group of headteachers, we have now decided to move towards a hub model in line with other local authorities across Wales.

Whilst the number of sites offering the provision is fewer, the hub model is based on local school clusters working together to deliver the childcare provision for their area. This will enable them to redeploy and rota teaching and support staff to keep the hubs open for a sustained period, and provide the best possible quality of provision given the circumstances.

14 hubs will be available across the Vale of Glamorgan, made up of schools that are geographically as close as possible to each other. With 14 hubs, this will mean that the number of pupils attending will remain relatively low to ensure we are able to maintain safe social distancing measures. All hubs will provide childcare for households where both parents/carers are key workers or for single family households where the parent/carer is a keyworker. Childcare provision for these families will operate from 7am to 7pm, 7 days a week, and will provide breakfast, lunching and an evening snack to all children. A centrally operated admissions process for parents who are key workers will be introduced and children will be allocated to an appropriate hub. Details of this will be made available on the Vale of Glamorgan website www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

*It remains the case that the hub childcare provision should only be used as a **last resort** where all other options have been exhausted by parents and carers, and wherever possible, children and young people should remain in the safety of their own homes. The wellbeing and safety of both staff and pupils is absolutely paramount in all our thinking.*

Llansannor has been chosen as the HUB school serving Llangan, Llansannor, Y Bont Faen and Ysgol Iolo key workers. The HUB group will be starting this Wednesday 1st April.

All 4 head teachers have been working very hard to get this up and running in the short time given. The Hub Lead will be myself and I will liaise regularly with the local authority. As 4 head teachers we have been working to create a rota ensuring there will always be a member of staff on site from each school, so that children will always have a familiar face. We are also ensuring there are robust safeguarding and first aid procedures in place. A member of the leadership team will be on site at all times.

I know many headteachers would have liked to continue childcare for their children in their own environment but with the situation changing on a daily basis, we would all struggle to maintain this. We look forward to welcoming the children from our 3 partner schools and their staff as we will now work closely as a team to ensure all children in our care are happy and safe. We will still ensure numbers are kept as low as possible and all social distancing measures will be strictly observed.

We hope you have found the distant learning work set by teachers helpful for your child. Please understand that when staff are working in school they will not be as available to pupils within their HWB classrooms. The staff will also need their own rest and downtime.

We understand that this is a very challenging and unsettling time for you and your children and we wish to assure you that our partner schools with the Local Authority, are doing everything possible to support the national effort against the COVID-19 virus.

If you have any further questions regarding the HWB proposal, please don't hesitate to contact me at llansannorps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Very best wishes,

Mrs Prosser
Headteacher

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