



Ringland Primary School

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'Compassion, Curiosity, Courage'

Dear Parent / Guardians,

Following last week's announcement from the Minister of Education, Kirsty Williams, I wish to take the opportunity to clarify some of the details conveyed by the Welsh Government.

All schools in Wales will re-open from June 29th 2020. The return will take the form of a phased approach. It will provide all our children with the opportunity to 'check in and catch up' with their Teacher before we break for the summer holidays. Throughout these difficult times the wellbeing of the children has been paramount to us back in school. The check in sessions will enable staff to further support the children with their coping strategies and resilience during the time away from school, as well as provide opportunities for additional support for learning. The phased return will allow smaller groups of children to return to school each week for a fixed period of time. Not all children will be in school at the same time or on the same day.

The term will be extended by one week to end on Monday 27th July. The extended term will allow for a two week break in October during the Autumn Term.

Remote learning at home will continue and the Teachers will continue to provide learning and support, via Google classroom and See Saw.

Parents will be free to decide whether to send their children to school or not. Families who decide not to send their children back to school will not be penalised during these unprecedented times.

I am very aware parents will have many questions and concerns about the details of how the children will safely return to school. We will be issuing a parent questionnaire this week to ascertain the number of children who will return back to school with us during the week commencing 29th June and ask for your questions to be submitted for a school response.

With so much to consider, plan and organise the LA have requested that schools prepare their plans with a view to sharing them with parents no earlier than Friday. Headteachers await further guidance from Welsh Government and the LA.

Since schools were instructed to close to all pupils in March, here at Ringland we have very much remained open, including throughout the holiday periods, with staff providing child care for our Key Worker families, and Outreach Support. We opened up our own Hub last week to provide wider support for our vulnerable children, which has been a great success. The staff have continued to plan and provide home learning activities, as well as continuing the important links with the heroes in our Community such as the Carers in Wellwood House and the Staff in ICU at the Royal Gwent, and each week making calls to check in and offer support to all our families. The staff have been amazing and have supported me in making house calls to families we have been unable to reach. It has then been a joy to see each and every one of you.

As always, I thank you for your support. We have an amazing Community here in Ringland and one that we are very proud to be part of and support. I would also like to take this opportunity to reassure parents that the safety and wellbeing of our precious children and staff will remain paramount, in all the decisions and plans that we will make. For now, take care and continue to be safe.

Kindest Regards

Lisa Bowden
Headteacher