



18 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **A NEW YEAR, A NEW APPROACH**

Following extensive discussions, the Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) have set out a common approach for the return to schools in January. With transmission levels continuing to increase across Wales, and uncertainty over what impact that might have on school staffing levels over the Christmas break, there will be some flexibility built in at the beginning of new term.

For St Teilo's, this means:

- **In the week commencing 4 January 2021, live (synchronous) lessons will continue to be broadcast to pupils at 9.00am, 11.00am and 1.30pm each day.**
- **Vulnerable children who cannot learn at home will be supervised in school between Wednesday 6 January 2021 and Friday 8 January 2021.**
- **It is anticipated that all students will return to school on Monday 11 January 2021.**

As always, a rapidly evolving public health position may result in further changes. I will, of course, keep you updated.

A WLGA spokesperson said:

*"The plan to return to schools in January will give some certainty, whilst also allowing for flexibility to take account of local circumstances.*

*Teachers, school staff, learners, and parents and carers' response has been remarkable throughout this challenging year. It has not been easy, and we thank them for their continued patience and perseverance to help keep our communities safe.*

*To help curb the rapid spread of the virus, we must all continue to do all we can to protect ourselves, each other and our communities."*

I would urge you to use the time between Christmas and the recommencement of face-to-face teaching in school to stay at home and minimise contacts wherever possible. We each must do our part in ensuring that we return to school free from infection to prevent our doors closing again.

### ***How will my child access their lessons?***

All children are enrolled into a blended learning class on Hwb. Each day, there will be three links to lessons in the 'Live Lessons' folder. As this week, pupils simply need to click on the link to watch lessons through their browser. A timetable for the week will be available within the same folder.

Sixth Form students will need to download the Microsoft Teams app from Hwb to engage fully with their meetings.

If pupils have technical difficulties, they should email [closurehelpline@stteilos.com](mailto:closurehelpline@stteilos.com).

### ***My child is vulnerable. Can they continue to attend school?***

All children who can learn at home, must do so. If a child has a particular need which prevents them from learning effectively at home, then they may continue to attend school. All children wishing to attend school will need to apply for a place, so that enough staff can be made available to provide supervision and care. To make such an arrangement, please email [headteacher@stteilos.com](mailto:headteacher@stteilos.com) with a short explanation of your particular difficulties. We'd be happy to assist.

### ***My child does not have access to suitable technology.***

The school retains a small number of devices which can be loaned to families. Please email [headteacher@stteilos.com](mailto:headteacher@stteilos.com) to request support.

### ***I am worried and need somebody to talk to.***

Notwithstanding the difficulties posed by the COVID crisis, Christmas and the new year can bring its own challenges. If you are worried and need to talk, please contact our emergency helpline on [07568357563](tel:07568357563). You can call us during normal working hours, send us a text message, or message us via WhatsApp.

*Hark, hark, the wise eternal word,  
like a weak infant cries!  
In form of servant is the Lord,  
and God in cradle lies. (Thomas Pestel)*

To a troubled world, peace from Christ. To a searching world, love from Christ. To a waiting world, hope from Christ.

Humbly yours,

Mr I Loynd  
Headteacher