

# Newsletter

December 17<sup>th</sup> 2020

A Caring, Respectful and Open Environment, where Success and Opportunity flourish



Please find our school newsletter for the week ending 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Click on the links for more information.

Please visit our website  
[www.pentrepoethprimary.co.uk](http://www.pentrepoethprimary.co.uk)

Kind regards,  
Cofion cynnes,

Dean Taylor



# Pentrepoeth Primary School

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## End of Term Newsletter

17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

This will be the last newsletter of the year. 2020 has brought significant challenges for all of us. Covid-19 has impacted all of our lives.

As I reflect on the last year in school, those challenges came swiftly and there seemed to be a new one at least every week (sometimes daily)....from the closure of schools in March, a switch to home learning, the creation of a child care hub for vulnerable and key worker children to the partial opening in the summer, the creation of contact groups and a whole raft of health and safety assessments that have impacted on daily school life since September. The changes we introduced have affected the way we teach and deliver the curriculum, the communication we have with parents and are clearly influenced on a daily basis by community life.

We will all remember 2020 for the way in which Covid-19 has affected us both in our personal and professional lives.

Whilst the challenges were and are formidable the last year has also been a time when we have seen the best of people – our frontline NHS staff and all critical and key workers who have stepped up and bravely gone about their jobs helping others or saving lives. We say thank you.

**10 things to protect yourself and others over Christmas:**

**Before seeing your Christmas bubble...**

- Try and make your bubble as small as possible
- Reduce contacts 10 days beforehand (especially if there are vulnerable people in your bubble)
- Keep 2m distance, wash hands, wear a mask where needed
- Plan ahead – think about space for seating, opening windows and cleaning products
- Self-isolate immediately and request a test if you develop Covid symptoms

**When gathering with your Christmas bubble...**

- Keep the time your bubble spends together to a minimum
- Avoid close contact as much as possible, use space wisely and spread out seating
- Open windows whenever you can, if it is safe to do so
- Wipe surfaces regularly and wash hands often, especially before eating
- Don't share things like utensils or towels

**Together, we'll Keep Wales Safe**  
[gov.wales/coronavirus](http://gov.wales/coronavirus)

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It would be remiss of me not to mention the outstanding PPS team who have stepped up and gone above and beyond – always with a ‘can do’ attitude and driven by the clear determination to provide a safe, happy and secure environment with a focus on wellbeing, learning and teaching as the world has spun around us.

To the community of parents, carers and extended families – my sincere thanks for your patience and partnership and for the way in which you have supported the school over the last year. It is appreciated more than you know. This is truly a community effort in keeping all safe.

To our pupils – my thanks for your laughter, determination, resilience and ability to keep us all going with your smiles, stories and amazing attitudes to learning. You are the reason we do this job.

Christmas will be a little different this year. We have been unable to bring you our normal Christmas routines and concerts – however, I am sure the children singing will fill you with pride and bring some Christmas cheer.

I will be monitoring the school e-mail over Christmas. If you do need to inform me of a positive covid case – please e-mail the **school e mail only** - [pentrepoeth.primary@newport.gov.uk](mailto:pentrepoeth.primary@newport.gov.uk) .

**Newport City Council has today announced changes to the beginning of the spring term. The week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> January will now be a blended learning week where learning will be online. Childcare hub provision will be available at school for Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> for vulnerable learners and critical and key worker children only.** There will be strict adherence to the list of key workers in allocating a place. Only use this provision as a last resort if no other option is available to help stop the spread of the virus. Please e-mail school by 9am on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 if this provision is required.

Face to face teaching will commence on Monday January 11<sup>th</sup> for Reception to Year 6 and new nursery starters. Face to Face teaching will start for existing nursery on Tuesday January 12<sup>th</sup>.

On behalf of the governors, staff and pupils at Pentrepoeth I wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year.

Yours sincerely,  
Cofion cynnes,



Dean Taylor, Headteacher



**New rules for Wales**

**From end of trading on Christmas Eve**  
Non-essential retail, including close-contact services, such as hair salons, and all leisure and fitness centres will close

**From 6pm on Christmas Day**  
All hospitality premises will close

**From December 28 - Alert level four:**

**You must:**

- Wear a face covering in all indoor public places\*
- Stay at home
- Not form extended households\*
- Meet only the people you live with or are in your support bubble
- Work from home if you can
- Not travel without a reasonable excuse
- Not travel internationally without a reasonable excuse

**Venues for events and conferences**

Ice skating rinks	<b>CLOSED</b>
Visitor attractions	
Entertainment venues	
Wedding receptions/wakes	
Sport courts, skate parks, golf courses	
Leisure and fitness facilities	Public facilities*
	Holiday accommodation*
	Hospitality premises*
	Close contact services*
	Non-essential retail*
	Nightclubs and adult entertainment venues

*\*Exceptions in certain circumstances*

BBC

