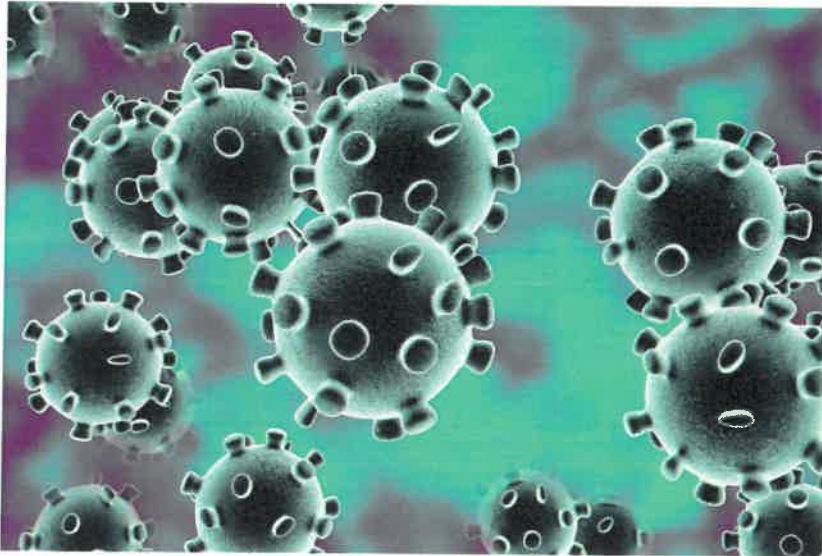


RICHMOND PARK PRIMARY YSGOL PARC WAUNDEW



MARCH

2019/20



Overshadowed by COVID-19

The Spring Term 2020 has very much been overshadowed by the news of the coronavirus pandemic.

Last week and this week, precautionary measures have been stepped up to protect pupils, staff and visitors to the school.

Our main concern is of course the health and well-being of our stakeholders and we have taken increasing steps alongside the support of the Governing Body and the guidance of the Local Authority to delay any widespread infection, limit social interactions between classes and work with parents to isolate children at risk.

Only yesterday we closed our Assessment and Observation Unit due

to staff self isolation.

Pupil attendance numbers are down to 55% today also. Whilst some children are genuinely ill with usual ailments, many families are concerned over underlying health issues of their children or family members and are taking their own precautionary measures to protect their family.

Staff and parents are asking regularly if we are closing. We will inform you via text if we do. In the meantime there is a letter on the back of this newsletter from your Key Stage Coordinator to guide you with regards to home learning for pupils.

That leaves me to assure you that I will keep in touch via text message as to next steps for our school.

Mrs Luff - Headteacher

MOBILE PHONE NUMBERS

Please ensure your mobile phone number is correct with the office. This is our main form of communication especially at these difficult times.

Please inform Helen.luff@richmond.ysgolccc.cymru if you think your number may be incorrect and I will change it on our systems.

ADDITIONAL INSET DAY

Thursday 7th May

The Welsh Government have asked all schools to plan an additional INSET day in the summer term in order to plan appropriately for the new curriculum.

Mr Cooper, Mrs Peters and I have penciled in Thursday 7th May at present. However in the current climate we are still unsure how long COVID-19 restrictions will be in place. We will of course keep you updated about this.

URGENT MESSAGE

As I write my newsletter to you an urgent message has been issued from the LA:

Recognising the pressures across the system, the Minister for Education is now intending to bring forward the school Easter holidays in Wales.

Schools across Wales will close for statutory provision of education at the latest on 20 March 2020.

Again we will keep you informed of our plans by text message.



Headteacher / Pennaeth: Mrs Helen Luff

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www.richmond.amdro.org.uk

**Richmond Park School,
Carmarthen**



**@RichmondParkCPS
@YsgolRichmond**

16th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

With the possibility of school closures due to Covid-19, many of you are already considering how to best support your children's learning at home. As your child is used to hands on experiences and learning through play, we believe that providing you with lots of paper-based activities will not benefit them greatly. So instead we'd like you to make this an opportunity to provide your children with experiences they may not get in school. We've put a list of ideas and top tips together for you to get started when planning your day.

Spend time outside

No matter the weather, try and spend some time in the outdoors. It **doesn't** have to be long. Have them play in the mud or splash in the rain. Being outside and getting fresh air provides great health benefits.

Challenge the brain without electronics

Perhaps try sudoku, card games and board games. You could practice letter formation or writing simple sentences. Challenge their brains with some number work. They could practice counting or simple addition. Many websites have put some free learning packs together that you could access and print. A list of these has been added to the [website](#).

Creative time

Creating things can stimulate the brain in many ways. It's motivating, and engaging so make sure you have time for it! They could build with lego, create a fort, draw or paint pictures, play music or cook and bake.

Help out time

Allow your children to learn about the house routines. This will teach them about responsibility and how to respect and help others. Let them wash the dishes or sort out the laundry. Perhaps some gardening or hoovering needs doing!

Quiet time

Make sure your children have time to relax and reflect on their day during some quiet time. They could read a book or do a puzzle. Perhaps they could speak to older relatives and check people are ok by video calling or phoning.

Challenge the brain with electronics

Your children have access to many online resources through their Hwb accounts. They could document their time at home, send an email to a teacher or practice their maths and spelling skills. We have recently sent home your children's login details with more information on how to best use online resources.

There is also a new page on our website with links and resources to cover all curriculum areas. This can be found by clicking the '[Resources for Home Learning](#)' link on the front page of our school website (below the school video). You can also access this by typing <http://www.richmondpark.amdro.org.uk/home/information/resources-for-home-learning/>

Most importantly, I would like to encourage you to use this time at home to get involved in special activities with your children. Use this shared time at home to work with your child on creative crafts, cookery and games. Make these difficult times memorable times for your family.

Kind regards,

Mrs K Peters
(Foundation Phase Coordinator)