



PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Portfield School

Portfield, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1BS
Headteacher: Mr Damian Hewitt

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CYNGOR SIR PENFRO

Ysgol Portfield

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Hello Everyone

Thank you for all your support and patience you have provided us with during this first month. Although we are living in very strange times we must commend you all in ensuring that the term has started so smoothly. The children and students have been truly amazing and have settled back into school with real resilience. There is a real sense of calm across the school bases and the staff team have worked hard to ensure that our return has been happy and successful.

I have had a wonderful first month and feel truly privileged to lead such a fantastic learning community. Portfield is a very special place and I am so happy to be your Headteacher.

COVID-19

I am sure you are all aware that the school has adopted significant systems to ensure that we can minimise the risk of any outbreak. We are maintaining social distancing and wearing Personal Protection Equipment across the school. The children are entering and exiting their classes from their external doors and are carefully managed as they make their way in and out of school. All classes are timetabled for play to ensure contact groups can isolate and do not mix.

School staff meetings are virtual and we are limiting entry to school to staff and supporting professionals. Sadly this does mean that parent meetings and reviews will also have to remain to be held over the phone or via the Internet.

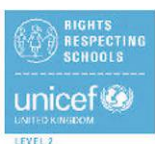
Class teachers will be contacting you all to arrange parent consultations after half term to discuss how the children have settled into their classes.

Communal spaces such as the hall and corridors are not being used by groups and all educational equipment is carefully cleaned both before and after use.

All staff have to sign in and out of their contact areas and the school is now using the Covid Track and Trace QR code at the entrance of the school.

The Medical and Physio teams are following strict clinical procedures to ensure that they can still support our pupils during these testing times.

Once again the children have been truly magnificent in managing these changes to our routines and procedures.





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Transport

We have also changed our drop off and pick up routines to respond to actions raised in our Estyn report. Firstly, the transport team are all following the same clear Covid guidance that we as schools must adhere to.

Thank you to all of you who are collecting by car in ensuring that you are arriving before the buses arrive. The transport team have been incredibly patient as they wait to enter the school entrance area. All vehicles are now moving in and out of the school site in blocks. Children are not brought to the vehicles until all traffic is parked and again vehicles do not move until all pupils are safely away from the drop off area.

The central team are all out in high visibility wear to ensure the traffic is carefully managed and any anti social driving can be instantly challenged.

Inset Days

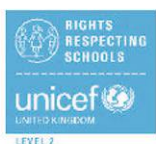
The school inset days for this academic year are as follows:

Mon 04 and Tues 05 January 2021; Tues 13 July 2021; Mon 19 and Tues 20 July 2021.

Please remember the term dates can be viewed on our website.

21st Century Funding

Sadly, it looks like that the school's long promised new build might be at risk due to Pembrokeshire Council expenditure on current projects eating into the budget that was provided by the Welsh Government. Obviously this would be disastrous as the lower school should really have been replaced when the upper school project was completed. The council ultimately can determine how this money is spent and our Governing Body is composing a letter that we intend to send to every councillor. I think it would be really powerful if a Portfield Pupil from every council ward could accompany our letter to their own councillor. I want to ensure our pupils' needs are not ignored and that our councillors champion us rather than turning their back on us to focus on another project. It is clear to me that Portfield needs to be redesigned and reorganised to ensure that we are able to meet the needs of all our pupils and just as importantly, the needs of children who are often waiting to enter our school but cannot due to a lack of space and capacity.





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Hopefully you will all have had the chance to watch the inspiring 3 part documentary 'The Special School' on BBCWales. This brilliant series has brought into focus the stark difference between the state of the art environment in Ysgol Deri compared to the conditions in our old lower school... bear in mind they are also in the process of already adding another facility to their new build!

I would like your help to allow the children to work with their teaching staff to write a letter to remind our councillors that children born in Pembrokeshire should be given the same opportunities as their peers throughout Wales. Children born in Haverfordwest, Neyland, Tenby, Milford, Whitland and so on should have exactly the same rights of the children born in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Our children deserve the very best and we should move heaven and earth to champion their rights and to ensure they have every chance to view their future with a sense of confidence.

Therefore please help us by signing and returning the slip below:

Thank you for your help.

Kind regards

Damian Hewitt

Headteacher

I give permission for (Pupil Name)

to work with their teacher to compose a letter to my local councillor.

Our postcode is

Signed (Parent/Carer)

