

Llantilio Pertholey CiW Primary School: Blended Learning Policy



The year ahead is likely to be unsettled and we must prepare for whatever may come our way. Children may have to spend more time away from school because they are unwell, because they are in self isolation following contact with a positive case of Covid-19, or due to a period of partial or full forced school closure. Whatever the situation we want to do the best for our children to be able continue to learn whilst at home.

Children will have had different experiences at home during the national lockdown and being away from school will have affected our children in different ways. Our main priority is to ensure that we understand the emotional wellbeing of all of our children and that we meet their emotional needs. If you have any concerns, please make sure that you talk to your child's class teacher.

During an enforced time away from school we hope that all children will engage in the activities we will continue to plan and provide for learning at home. We want to reassure you that we understand that every family circumstance is different. We know that many of you may still have to go out to work, some of you may be working from home and trying to juggle work with supporting learning, some will have pre-schoolers to care for, and others' work situations may have changed completely and created uncertainty in your home as a result of COVID-19. The level in which you will be able to engage in your child's learning from home will differ depending on your own unique situation. Again, we would stress the importance of looking after your family's wellbeing. Please speak to your child's class teacher via SeeSaw if you or your child is finding learning at home is difficult. Please do not worry if you cannot complete everything that we set. Some children will manage an hour each day, other children will enjoy completing tasks for hours. Our approach offers work that we would ideally want children to complete each day and then other activities that children could decide to do.

We will aim to provide a range of well-planned learning experiences which inspire and motivate children to engage. Supporting learners' literacy, numeracy and social and emotional needs and wellbeing will be our priorities. Our distance learning approach requires learning to be shared with you and your child online through safe digital platforms such as the school website and SeeSaw.

It is important to get a balance of both online learning and learning away from devices. Our approach embraces key digital ways of sharing and engaging in continued learning:

- SeeSaw for daily communication with class teachers (<https://web.seesaw.me/> or downloaded app) and for the sharing of resources and sharing of work in order to receive feedback from the teacher.
- Home Learning on our School Website:
<https://www.llantiliopertholeycv.monmouthshire.sch.uk> for links to resources and home learning packs. What is provided by the school to support your child's distance learning will depend upon the reason for the absence.

- We aim to introduce Microsoft Teams via Welsh Government's Hwb Learning Platform or the Teams App for live face to face sessions with staff and peers as soon as possible.

Individual pupil absence due to self-isolation

If your child has to self-isolate as an individual child, we ask that you use the learning packs (and accompanying answer packs) on your child's class home learning page on our school website:

<https://www.llantiliopertholeycv.monmouthshire.sch.uk>

Teachers can be contacted for further advice, guidance and support through SeeSaw but as they will be teaching their class full time in school, pre-recorded and live video lesson will not be available.

Class or Contact Group / Full School Closure

Your child's learning week will be outlined and accessible in a weekly plan on our school website by 9am on the first day of closure. This will also be linked through the teacher's morning message on SeeSaw on the first day of learning from home and on each following week thereafter during closure. We have evaluated carefully the learning we offered during the lockdown started in March based upon discussions with staff and the feedback we have received to date from parents/carers and children.

Your child's teacher will upload a daily activity for maths and literacy and a weekly RE activity onto the school website. We would urge all parents to support your child with these activities to support your child's learning. The teacher has worked with the children to provide a range of other learning activities that children may choose to complete.

Teachers will provide a combination of pre-recorded and personalised video lessons for maths and literacy each week along with online learning tasks and links to resources that can be completed away from the computer.

We will spend time in school training children to access digital learning platforms and use them at home, older children should be able to use these platforms independently. Where possible please support your child in their learning activities and challenges. Try to help them uncover information for themselves, rather than giving them the answers. We expect all children to share at least one activity from the day with their teacher for feedback. This work should be uploaded to SeeSaw.

Guidance to assist with this can be found on the 'Parents' Information' pages our school website:

<https://www.lantiliopertholeycv.monmouthshire.sch.uk>

Please support your child with uploading work to SeeSaw and discuss teacher feedback with your child and help them to action suggestions.

Whilst no one is sure yet how long we will need to think approaches to learning at home, we are sure that it will not last forever. As adults, it is important that we model for the children that we are confident and optimistic that this pandemic will be over one day and that we can support each other until then. Managing our own emotions will help our children stay focused on learning and looking forward to a time when they can be back in school full time and learning face to face with their teachers and friends. We are fully aware of what the reality of 'home-schooling' really means

- Teachers understand that it is impossible to replicate learning at school through learning at home. It is impossible for the social interactions between your child and their peers, and your child and the adults in school. It is difficult to assess individual knowledge, skills and progress to plan and create the right balance of challenge and support for individuals in their learning, in the same way as in school, to ensure that each child reaches their full potential.
- We understand that managing home learning is a real challenge for many of our parents. It can be a real challenge to work through the learning offer, the guidance and the resources provided for your child. It takes time. You may be trying to manage a reluctant home-learner, for example, or trying to juggle your own working from home.
- From talking to our children, we understand that the one thing they missed the most during lockdown was the social aspect of school and the daily interactions with their friends and teachers. For some the lack of instant communication, guidance and feedback was difficult; others found understanding the learning at home very challenging; some children found the lack of structure of school tough to deal with.

If we find ourselves having to close part, or all, of the school again, we must all manage the expectations that we place on ourselves and our children through the complexity of home schooling. We must be kind to each other and understand that we are all finding the situation difficult. We all want the very best for our children and working together is the best we can do to support the children in the best way we can. Please communicate with us if you are struggling. We do want to help you because we care about all of our families.

For any extended periods of school closure longer than two weeks, all families will be supported with phone calls from staff. However, do not hesitate to contact staff on SeeSaw if you feel a phone call would be helpful to help sort out any learning misconceptions or to provide support for your family, even if your child is only away from school for a couple of days. We will provide an exercise book for the children to complete their distance learning in. Your child's login details and passwords will be found inside the book.