



# Llantilio Pertholey Church in Wales Primary

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe that we are here at Easter already! Just a reminder that today is the last day of term. We re-open on Monday 12th April. What a busy term we have had! I told our school Governing Body about the wonderful parents we have here and how we were so impressed with the learning and experiences that many of our children had over lockdown and they have asked me to send a further thank you from them. It is wonderful to have a school community that works closely together for the same goals: to meet the needs of every individual child in our school!

**Newsletter**  
**26th March**

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Thank you for those who have taken the time to complete our survey. Again, I stress that we really do value your views and the views of all of our pupils. Whilst, I cannot guarantee that we can do everything that is suggested, we certainly do all comments and at least try to come to a compromise. The 'further comments' have been particularly useful. It is not too late to have your views listened too. Click here if you would like to complete the survey: [\[Redacted\]](#)



A few points have come to light from the survey results already. One is that some parents did not know some of the exciting resources that are available on the website. Please have a look at the **Pupil Learning at School and at Home** pages. All of the work was uploaded onto the website each Sunday evening for those who wanted it in advance. There are reading books and many other websites signposted there for children who wanted to continue learning. We have obviously have curriculum websites but also there are fascinating websites like Webcams, YouTube Kids, NASA and Ted Education. Perhaps take a few minutes over the Easter holidays to have a look! [\[Redacted\]](#)

A few parents asked if children could type work answers and return that to teachers rather than always writing in a book. To be honest, we did not have the equipment to teach the children how to do that before the last lockdown. However, we now have 45 brand new Chromebooks for the children to use. We can now teach them how to access and use other platforms for their learning. Some have asked if the Wellbeing Check-Ins with their teacher could be more than once a week. Hopefully we will not be having any more long-term home learning ever again! But we will take this suggestion on board.

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Some parents have suggested that we should have had live lessons for a couple of hours each day. We did consider 'live teaching' and kept coming back to it throughout lockdown. However, most research was showing that this is not always successful with children of primary age. One of the issues is managing live lessons when parents are working from home or parents have different work patterns. I met regularly with other headteachers in our local area and across Wales and in reality, very few primary schools were offering 'live' teaching. We did add teaching videos to our planning and videos from the teachers each day as a compromise. Teachers were also available all day to support any problems with individuals and their learning. I thank you for your comments and we will discuss, as a staff, how we could possibly move forward with this next term.

Our Chair of Governors, Andrew Williams is the Assistant Director for Partnerships and Improvement in the Central South Consortium with responsibility for standards and improvement in schools across the region. Mr Williams leads a large team overseeing the work of Improvement Partners, Curriculum Advisers, Leadership, Governor development, Welsh, data and research and enquiry along with Equity and Well Being. Mrs Balkwill did a short presentation for the Governing Body explaining what we were doing for home learning during the lockdown. The presentation included examples of the planning that was shared with parents and examples your children's work. Mr Andrew's comment was that our school was 'up there with the best'. This was recorded in the minutes of the Governing Body meeting:

**'The Chair stated that he works across many schools and stated that Llantilio Pertholey's standards are one of the best. They noted the high level of staff commitment and the hard work of the HT and the senior leadership team (SLT)' ... 'The quality of provision is a strength of the school, and it was positive to see a school that is strongly engaging in self-evaluation and quality assurance processes. The school has also been able to work on the safety and wellbeing of its staff and pupils.'**

There were some comments about parents wanting to know where their child is in terms of learning. Our priority over the past few weeks has been the wellbeing of the children and supporting the transition back into school life. We will give you more detailed updates of your child's attainment and next-steps in due course.

Meanwhile, it would be amazing if you could support your child in their learning with basics such as tying their laces, telling the time using an analogue clock, learning months of the year and days of the week and learning times tables.



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It is also important that you **read with your child every night**. It is important for children to read the same book to become fully absorbed and to understand the book completely. Please use the prompts in the home reading record books that we have supplied: ask your child questions about what happened, what might happen next, who their favourite character is and why and so on. **So much of learning can be hindered by a lack of reading skills.**



We have just spent nearly £8000 on new fiction reading books (these will remain in school) and we are planning to spend another £8000 on new non-fiction reading books. (A big thank you to the PTFA who made a donation) We are really working hard to ensure that every child can read and that their reading develops at a pace. Your support with practising their skills is invaluable to your child. There are also reading games and phonic games signposted on the literacy page on the website. [REDACTED]

A few people marked the school low on communication (however, I did add this question into the survey after some had already submitted their answers. I have to admit that I was disappointed and bemused by this scoring. We have had so much information to pass to parents this year. All of the newsletters are published on SCHOOP and the school website (this is the 25th newsletter this academic year!). We have also published all letters and information sent from MCC, Aneurin Bevan and the NHS. At times, we had to wait to pass information on until we had agreed details of changes with the local authority which has meant that information was last minute. However, if we can improve our communication in anyway please email the school and let us know or write a specific comment in the survey.

**We pride ourselves on being open with our parents and the full results of the survey are available on the school website.** [REDACTED]

I would like to remind parents again that we are a **nut-free school**. We do have children with severe allergies. Anything with nuts in is not allowed: peanut butter, Nutella, marzipan and some cereal bars. Please understand that if some of children come into contact with these products they could be hospitalised or worse. I love peanut butter and almond popcorn (only 115 calories...other flavours available) but I leave these to enjoy at home. I am afraid that we will have to take any snacks containing nuts or that *may contain traces of nuts* away from children because of the dangers. Whilst we are talking about food please may I remind you that we are a healthy school and snacks for breaktime should be healthy not bars of chocolate or crisps. Thank you so much for cooperating with this.

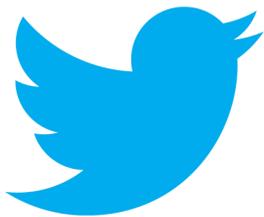
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One of our parents has asked if we could support a charity called Sal's Shoes. The charity collect used but re-useable shoes for overseas charity use. They

especially like school shoes because children in some countries are not allowed to attend school unless they are wearing school uniform, which excludes poor children from an education. If you have any shoes that you would be prepared to donate please ties them together as a pair and drop off at the school. This will be an ongoing charity project. We would be very grateful if you could include an envelope with a £2.00 donation to help pay for postage of the schools. This is such a worthwhile project and I hope we can help children less fortunate than ourselves to get an education. Thank you and thank you to the parent for bringing this charity to my attention.



We are always looking to improve the way we communicate with our parents. We have started a new TWITTER feed for our school. Our previous TWITTER feed was becoming cluttered with information from many other TWITTER feeds. Our new feed will only contain tweets **about our school**. If you want to find out more about what is happening in school each day please join our TWITTER feed

[@LPCommunity](https://twitter.com/LPCommunity)

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or click on the TWITTER logo.



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Please could I remind you to arrive ***no sooner than 5 minutes before your child's arrival or exit time.*** Some children are arriving very early in the school day. If you need your child to be in school earlier or stay later we do have a Breakfast Club and an After School Club. Thank you for your cooperation.

It has been a great disappointment that we have been unable take our older KS2 children to outdoor centres over the past year. To avoid any further disappointment, the cluster schools have joined together to buy some exciting outdoor equipment to share including 8 bell tents and cooking equipment:



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Control the Amount of Light by Adjusting the Height of the Lantern



We are hoping our Year 5 & 6 pupils will be able to camp in the school grounds. We will give more details of our plans early next term.

It just remains to say 'Happy Easter'.



Have a super break everyone. Let's hope the sun shines for us and the rules relax! Thank you for your support, our school is growing from strength to strength. I can't wait to share what we are planning to do next!

Best Wishes and God Bless,

(Headteacher)

**26th March: End of Spring Term**

**Monday 12th April: Start of Summer Term**

**Monday 3rd May: May Day**

**Monday 31st May-Friday 4th June: Half Term**

**Friday 18th June: Teacher Training**

**19th, 20th July: Teacher Training**

**20th July: End of Summer Term**

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