



Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope you are all keeping well? It has been great to see so many of our pupils engage in a committed way to the work they have been set. Your tweets and messages on TEAMS have been excellent, keep this up and well done! We have already provided work from each subject with suggested activities that your child could complete at home. This work set does not include the official school Easter fortnight which starts next Monday, 6th of April. However, if there are some activities that you would like to complete with your child – please go ahead. The teachers however will not be responding to Classcharts or TEAMS for this period.

Please let us know of any major issues you are having in order for us to ensure our support is effective; this is all new to us too! You can email any queries to Studentinformation@cyfarthfahigh.merthyr.sch.uk. You can also contact the school on 01685 722555. Or contact your class teacher directly through Classcharts or TEAMS. After half term, we will be making telephone contact with all families just to offer any support we can and check how you are all doing. Please be aware that our staff are also juggling the challenges of working from home, continuing to support the council's vital services and also caring for and educating their own children and families. We may not be able to answer your queries immediately.

This being said, we are very mindful that these are exceptional circumstances. Many of you are trying to balance: working from home; caring for and educating other children; worrying about finances; dealing with limited access to technology and some unfortunately may be unwell. Please remember, you are not your child's teacher; your child is not in school. It is impossible to replicate what we can provide in school and nobody is expecting you to do so. Home learning is not the same as school and there are limitations to what is possible and can be expected. The work available is to provide you with a regular bank of suggested activities which can be tweaked according to the resources that you have available - it is up to you to decide what is best for your child and circumstances. Some weeks you may feel that you can complete several tasks but other weeks you may only manage one or even none; this is fine. Some children may respond well to a structured timetable, others will rebel! Whichever way you choose to work, please remember that Health and Wellbeing is a very important curriculum area and tasks like cooking, exercising, mindfulness, helping around the home, discussing ideas/thought/feelings/opinions and helping others are just as important as writing a letter and completing a graph.

The curriculum for Wales is changing and the way you were taught in schools was probably very different to how our children are educated today. Although we have provided some 'traditional' skill based tasks/ worksheets, we would not expect children to be sitting quietly in front of a screen or worksheet for any length of time. Your child should be encouraged to think of creative ways to complete or research tasks and to talk them through with you. The ideas set by staff are just starting points- you are more than welcome to be creative in your response!



The new Successful Futures Curriculum has 4 Core Purposes. To be:

- ambitious, capable learners ready to learn throughout their lives.
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work.
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world.

On a positive, this awful virus has provided us with valuable learning experiences which contribute to these core purposes. Our pupils are learning to think how actions affect others (both positively by placing rainbows in windows and negatively by not following social distancing guidelines). They are learning reliance, patience, compassion. They are caring for their own health and well-being and also that of others in our community. They are taking responsibility for their learning; using creative thinking to keep themselves amused in the absence of play parks, cinemas and clubs. They are learning the importance of family and community. We are all in this together!

Please be assured that schools will adjust all future planning to ensure pupils 'catch-up' on the education lost during this crisis. The important thing for us is that our pupils return in good mental and physical health. Happy, healthy children make the best learners!

I hope this letter helps some of the concerns or anxieties you may have. Please stay safe and take care of each other!

Kind regards,

Mrs N Bowden.

Assistant Head Teacher.