



YSGOL GYNRADD GYMRAEG BRYN-Y-MÔR

Pennaeth/ Headteacher: Mrs Elin Wakeham

Mewn undod mae nerth /Stronger together

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope that you all found the information evening from your child's teacher informative. I am aware that covid has impacted some classes and we will re arrange those cancelled evening as soon as possible.

Holiday Requests and Attendance

There has been a large number of holiday requests placed during this first month. Now that schools are returning to some sort of normality, there is a refocus on attendance for all school pupils. There is a strong link between attendance rates and success in school across the curriculum. Research shows that missing 17 days of school a year (an attendance rate of 91%) can result in a drop in progress across all subjects.

Our school target for this year is 96%. Although the school and county understand that illness does impact attendance, authorised holiday request are left to the discretion of the head teacher.

Following a period of a disruptive few years with covid, **I feel that parents should think carefully before taking their children on holiday during term time.**

Very often, on parent request forms - benefits of a holiday for their children is noted as a reason. But pupils missing large parts of the term e.g missing the start of term can be very disruptive to a pupil's wellbeing and ability to settle into a routine as well as the educational impact and engagement with the curriculum. When parents make a request for holidays – please ensure that the form arrives at least 2 weeks before you plan to go on holiday.

When making decisions about an authorised holiday, I take these elements into considerations:

- Age of the child
- Time of year of the proposed trip
- Length and purpose of the holiday
- Impact on continuity of learning
- Circumstances of the family
- Wishes of the parents
- Overall attendance pattern
- The stage of education
- The child's progress
- Any cultural issues
- Benefits to the child
- Any guidance or clarifications issued by Welsh Government or Ministers

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bryn y Môr, St Albans Road, Brynmill, Swansea, SA2 0BP

E-bost/ E-mail: ygg.brynymor@swansea-edunet.gov.uk

Gwefan/ Website: www.yggbrynymor.co.uk

Trydar/Twitter: @YGGBrynymor1

Ffôn/ Tel: 01792 466354





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On your request for holiday time – please ensure that you pay due regard to the following paragraph:

Should your child accumulate a level of unauthorised absence which brings their attendance below 90% during the year, the Local Authority may (depending on the circumstances) issue a fixed penalty notice or commence formal prosecution for failing to secure regular attendance at school. The full details of the fixed penalty scheme can be found on the City and County of Swansea website.

Lateness

Please ensure that your child is on the school premise by 8.45am.

Healthy Schools

As a school that promotes healthy eating we ask that parents send in water and fruit for the children's snack break. We are an allergy aware school, so we also ask that if parents are sending in packed lunches, where possible, that you pack nut free food. Please ensure that packed lunch boxes are healthily balanced and that there are no 'pop' drinks or too many sugary foods included. There is a strong body of evidence that recognises the link between sugar and the health and wellbeing (including behaviour) of children. Visit the health lunch boxes guidance from the NHS: <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

Squid

Please remember to use you squid account to make all payments to the school as we are a cashless school (Except for breakfast club). Please remember, that we cannot run a deficit school budget on Squid, so please make sure all lunch meals are paid for on time. Any debt incurred by parents will result in payment taken directly from the school budget, which in the end, takes away funding from the pupils.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

E. Wakeham

Elin Wakeham

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