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 ‘Developing Potential Through

 Educational Excellence’

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 Mr R K Jones, B Ed. (Hons) N.P.Q.H

 Pennaeth/Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Firstly I would like to welcome you all to what should have been the start of an exciting Summer Term. We had so much planned for the coming weeks with Sports Day, Health and Wellbeing Fortnight, Whole School Business Project and transition to name but a few.

However during these very worrying times the most important thing is that I hope you are all safe and well. Your health and emotional well-being is always a priority at Ysgol Derwen and unfortunately during these difficult times we must put many of our ambitions and interests temporarily on hold as we battle Coronavirus.

As you know the national curriculum is now suspended across Wales and will be for a considerable period of time. Your teachers have been working very hard adapting to a totally new way of working and I am delighted with the way they have risen to the challenge during the first few weeks in lockdown. As staff continue to become more familiar and confident with distance learning over the coming weeks, the way in which tasks are set may also change. I am also mindful that we all have very different circumstances at home and that it would be insensitive and impractical to have the same expectations for all students, carers and staff.

During the coming weeks, please complete any tasks set by your teachers as and when you can. There will be no pressure or deadlines from my staff. Please just have a go and try to enjoy learning. If our teachers( and their families) are fit and able, they will support and encourage students to develop this distance learning approach. Please also be aware that this is not a bespoke individualised teaching package for individual children with an expectation that staff will be in constant contact with pupils and will be providing additional tasks on request. I am expecting my teachers to set either weekly or daily tasks and to be available if you are struggling with completing any given activity. Remember to use the same resilience strategies used in school:

* Ask a family member for support
* Use a book or the internet
* Take a break and come back to the question you are struggling on
* Use some of the mindfulness strategies that have been taught

Reading is the cornerstone of academic success. If you are in any doubt as to what to do with your extra time, please read, read, read. You can lose yourself in a good story, discover scientific facts or learn about world history by using reliable websites. There is so much other things you can also learn whilst at home. Why not improve your Welsh or try to learn a new language. My daughter is trying to learn Japanese! Try to develop your numeracy or literacy in a variety of ways, improve your art and drawing skills or plan and perform a routine in dance, PE or Drama. Please remember to be safe and careful. Children should always get adult permission before they do any practical activities at home.

It is essential that we all remain fit and healthy, particularly during the coming months. Please take safe and moderate exercise whenever you can. Keep moving, remain active and adhere to all government lockdown guidelines. Never underestimate how good a little physical exercise and being outdoors can make a person feel.

Stay Safe. Stay Learning.

R Jones

Headteacher



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Please address all communications to the Headteacher