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'Developing Potential Through
Educational Excellence'

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Pennaeth/Headteacher

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Dear Parent/Carer

This letter contains some important information about distance learning for you and your children. Staff have been working very hard behind the scenes to prepare quality learning activities for your children whilst they are off school.

As you are aware education has been suspended in Wales and schools have been re-purposed. The National Curriculum has been suspended for the foreseeable future. Accountability measures have also been suspended. This involves inspections, monitoring visits, attendance data, moderation of work, tests, assessments and formal exams. Schools are now being used as Hubs to provide childcare for children in the Key Worker groups. We are now looking after children not educating them.

Staff will be providing work for your children which you can access initially via the school website, www.derwenprimaryschool.com. The work will be organised by year group and accessed from the home page under the Distance Learning tab. Work will be uploaded weekly on a Sunday ready for the start of the following week. You should receive your first online distance learning communication by 8pm on Sunday 22nd March. As this is a new way of working it may take a couple of weeks for staff, pupils and parents to become fully familiar and to use this method of learning effectively.

Please be considerate if at any point, work for your year group does not appear. There may be internet connection issues due to the entire school population of the UK accessing online learning e.g. mobile network providers crashed on Tuesday morning following a request from people working from home or in the worst case scenario the teacher or a member of their family may have become ill and be unable to upload work. Whilst it remains to be important to keep up the academic work set by school it is as equally important to spend quality time with your family enjoying each others company and doing 'normal' things. Please remember that while they are in school, the children do spend time in transition to lessons, breaktimes, lunchtimes, assemblies etc, so please don't feel that you have to make your child work for 6 hours a day.

There are many websites available to help you support your child with home learning. The Library service is also offering free eBooks and eAudiobooks online for you to enjoy. Please see the following website aura.wales/libraries/ to register. A list of websites will be placed on the school website in the Distance Learning tab.

Your child has been sent home with their Hwb log on details. There are excellent learning resources on this website for your child to use e.g. J2Blast. This section contains multiplication games and spelling games for all ages. Please notify the school on kimail@hwbcymru.net if you have any issues logging on. We will endeavour to sort these glitches out as soon as possible.

We hope this is a good starting point to help ensure some continuity of education during these difficult and unprecedented times.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely
R Jones
Headteacher