Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank you for responding to our Home Learning questionnaire. Your perspective and feedback have been invaluable in helping us to plan for the future. We were so grateful to receive your thanks and kind words. We appreciated your candid responses in identifying the barriers you faced as families and also the acknowledgment that some of those were out of our control. As a staff, we have looked at your suggestions on how we could improve and I hope you will see evidence of this in our Blended Learning plan.

Back in March 2020 we were all novices in working from home and as the situation with Covid-19 has developed our familiarisation with the various platforms available to us has evolved. We have spent many hours this term supporting our staff in their use of Seesaw, Google Classroom, Hwb and Teams. Staff have been working with your children in class to prepare them for using their learning platform should a class or school closure need to happen. We have also been busy making self help guides and videos for parents who need support with the various platforms. These will be available on our school website shortly.

In order to ensure progression we have identified 3 platforms that we will be using; Seesaw in the Foundation Phase from Nursery to Y2, Google Classrooms in Y3/4 and Teams in Y5/6. I’m sure you will appreciated that skills need to be developed and built upon and while Seesaw works well for our youngest children we felt Google and Teams gave teachers and learners greater scope for a wider range of tasks at the older end of the school. Mastery of these platforms will also be beneficial for working in school and ultimately, the transition to high school. We will be circulating Hwb user names and passwords to those children who are unfamiliar with them to enable teachers to send Google Meet invites to groups of pupils for face to face meetings with staff and friends.

We have worked as a team to construct a Blended Learning progression from N-Y6. This plan outlines the expectation for teachers and learners in each year group. We hope that in sharing this with you now, it will enable you to prepare at home, for example, familiarisation with Hwb email, installing apps on devices etc. Should your family not have access to a device at home we would hope to operate a loan system to those in our community with the greatest need. Please contact me at HodgesS7@Hwbcymru.net if you require support with this.

At Marlborough, we have still managed to keep Covid-19 outside our gates and to date, thanks to our protocols, cleaning team, families and staff, and are one of the few schools in Cardiff to have a 100% record. We all hope that this will continue to be the case as remaining open is of the utmost importance to us and our learners.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Sally Hodges

Assistant Headteacher

Leader of Innovation in Teaching and Learning.