



'Helping us to help ourselves learn'

Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Albert Primary School : Continuation of Learning Plan

As you know, we are all facing extraordinary challenges at this time and the situation is placing pressure on all parts of society. Our staff have been doing all they can, since this crisis began, to ensure that Albert is a calm and nurturing school. This letter sets out for you our proposed arrangements for our Continuation of Learning Plan that you can use to support your child's learning whilst schools are closed.

Hwb <https://hwb.gov.wales/>

Hwb will be used as the means for communication from teachers during a closure. Hwb is a website and collection of online tools provided to all schools in Wales by the Welsh Government. It has an amazing range of resources including Encyclopaedia Britannica and also access to Office 365 with free on-line versions of Word, PowerPoint, Excel etc.

We have been using **Hwb** in school for quite a while; it is essential that you attempt to login to **Hwb** at home today using your child's username and password so that we can be sure that all can gain access before we close. This will be the vehicle for the continuation of your child's education for the period of the school closure. Children should know their login details as these have been previously distributed. If your child is uncertain of their Hwb Login details then please make a request via email to WilliamsA19@hwmail.net. [Office hours only – clearly stating your child's *full* name and class.]

Please refer to the screen shots at the foot of this letter to guide you through the logging on and navigation process.

How we will distribute work to your child?

Teachers, **who are available to work**, will email their pupils' work packs on a daily basis, **where reasonably practicable**. Work can then be returned [[via the child's Hwb email](#)] to the teacher for marking, where appropriate. These work packs will consist of daily Maths and Literacy activities and will include, for example, a topic based learning task to be completed over the week.

We have logged in every child and all accounts and passwords work. However, I urge you to try your child's log in as soon as possible in order for us to help if there are any issues with it.



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AR - Accelerated Reader

AR is a website that we use to encourage children's reading. Children are required to read books within a suitable range (ZPD). Your child's reading record will tell them their ZPD. Each child is set a target. Over this time I will extend the targets regularly.

During this time of school closure please encourage your child to read at home. Lots of books can be read on line. *Before reading a book/ audio book please check that it is on the AR system.*

Once your child has read the book they can take an Accelerated Reader quiz on the book and a vocabulary quiz. (Please do not read or help your child with the questions of the quiz, this provides false information and does not support your child with reading.)

Pupils from Y1 to Y6 classes all have an Accelerated Reader account. Each pupil, has their own user name and password.

The AR website address is <https://ukhosted10.renlearn.co.uk/2238016> .

If your child experiences difficulties logging on to this system during school hours then please email **through your child's HWB account** on Haldenbyg@hwbcymru.net.

DoodleMaths

Simply follow these steps to make sure your child is ready to make the most of DoodleMaths:

- Download the DoodleMaths and the DoodleTables apps or go the Doodle Maths Website (<https://www.doodlemaths.com>)
- Ask your child to sign in using the details (remember, it's case sensitive!)
- Tap on the Grown Ups section and follow the instructions there to link yourself to your child
- Work with your child to go through the set up phase if they're in EYFS or KS1
Let your child work through their X-a-day exercise without any help - encourage them to do it independently and if they're really unsure, guess!
Login to www.parents.doodlemaths.com with your Grown Ups username and password and click on Monitor - Live so you can see how your child is doing as they complete their exercise
Download the Parent Connect app - you can see a snapshot of what your children are doing.

It's easy for you to be involved at home by using the Parent Connect app and the Parent Dashboard to track their progress. Encourage your child to earn at least 50 Doodle Stars a week (or 100+ to catch up or get ahead), and get instant updates through your app.

If you have any questions or want to know more, please take a look at the DoodleMaths FAQ page on the website. If you have any problems logging on to Doodle Maths or your child is uncertain of their log in details, please contact Mrs Lewis via her Hwb mail address: LewisM343@hwbmail.net



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How can I best help my child?

Please try to keep a routine at home. Access the work set by our teachers at the same time each day and complete the activities in the same order. For instance, complete the English skills work first and then the maths and then other relevant topic work sent to your child. This will help your child to know what is expected of them and will help them to continue to make progress with their learning. We will take care to provide an appropriate amount of work for each day every week so that your child can keep up with their tasks.

If you are able to support your child with their work, this will be helpful. We know that many of you may be continuing to work at home over the coming months; we will aim to support you by providing work that children can complete with a good degree of independence. This will be more difficult for younger children, but over time your son or daughter will learn to access activities without support. They can probably already do this at home with some apps and websites on a tablet or laptop.

Nursery/Reception

Given the nature of learning for the younger children, the staff have been preparing activities which the children will be able to access via our website. This work can be found via the Home Learning tab – Nursery Home Learning page.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing, dedicated staff. These are very worrying times and although there is a lot of reassurance that children are a low risk group, this is not the case for the adults who are surrounded by them every day. As well as currently carrying out their job of educating, there is also the more important job of keeping the children safe and to reduce the risk of anxiety and fear.

I wish to thank our pupils and their families for the fortitude that they have shown during this unsettled time. Whilst we currently have no way of knowing just how well our Continuation of Learning Plan will work, I wish to thank you in anticipation of your support in helping us to continue to provide the best possible education for your children.

In the meantime, I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation.

Yours faithfully,

Headteacher



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Hwb Login Instructions

1. Go to <https://hwb.gov.wales>
2. Click the Login icon in the top right of the screen



3. Enter your username followed by @hwbcymru.net. For example: Pupil1@hwbcymru.net

4. Enter your password carefully

YSGOL GYNRADD



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Hwb

Enter password

.....

[Forgotten my password](#)

Sign in

5. Once logged into Hwb – click on the Office 365 icon. This will open in a new tab.



6. After this, click on the Outlook icon. This will again open in a new tab.



7. You will now be able to see the email from your child / child's class teacher containing their home learning activities.



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8. Once completed, please send the work back to the class teacher.
9. **Remember to always log out of your Hwb account once you have finished.**

As well as these tasks, the children will still be able to access Accelerated Reader (<https://ukhosted10.renlearn.co.uk/2238016>), Doodle Maths (<https://www.doodlemaths.com>) and Just2easy (via Hwb) – where they can utilise a number of different exciting activities, such as, J2blast, Jit5, J2data and J2code. The children will also be encouraged to complete their Big Maths CLIC, Learn its and SAFE assessments (once a week).



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FAQs

Will I be able to contact the school during the period of closure?

Yes. You can contact us in exceptional circumstances via the COMMENT page on our website www.albertprimary.co.uk [Please note that this account is only monitored during office hours/term time only.] or if the building is occupied via our albertps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

School will also continue to communicate through emailing letters through ParentPay / texts and Twitter. Please also refer regularly to our website for additional information and links.

Will I be able to email my child's teacher for advice or to ask a question?

Yes. Teachers will be available via their professional email address only through your child's HWB account. Teachers are expecting to receive emails directly from pupils. They will be working very hard each day continuing with their professional responsibilities and will not have the time to reply to multiple emails each day. **They will ONLY respond to specific work related questions when relevant.**

What if my child can't keep up with the amount of work provided?

The work that will be sent to your child will have been written with the aim of helping your child to continue to make progress in their learning over the coming months. If possible, please try to ensure that your son/daughter completes the tasks set each day. It is not a problem if a few days are missed, but try not to let your child miss many days as it will be impossible to catch up.

If there is too much work or your child has many difficulties in completing the tasks, please let your child's teacher know only via your child's HWB email. We are aiming to provide activities that are suitable to the children's age in the amount of work as well as the level of difficulty. We are also aware that many parents will be trying to juggle child care whilst working at home and that those in 'essential roles' will continue to work long hours throughout the period of the school closure.

Can I set my own learning goals and tasks for my child?

Please try to ensure that your child completes the set learning activities each week, but if they want to do more and you are able to find more for them to do then please go ahead and provide your own extension tasks. This might be a great way of keeping them busy each day and, if you are able to work with your son/daughter, you will be able to have a great time together.