

Rising to the challenge at school

Sometimes we have to face unexpected experiences in life and that is what happened in March this year when we suddenly had to close Ysgol Penboyr, near Llandysul, because of the coronavirus. The school doors were closed for three months. When we re-opened things were very different, writes Carol James, the Headteacher

As teachers, we had to adapt quickly to educating the pupils through the means of technology and create digital teaching packages on the teaching platforms on HWB. Paper packages were prepared for those pupils who did not have access to [HWB](#). Some of the older pupils sent messages to the teachers if they were concerned about anything or needed help through their HWB account. We phoned families, including the vulnerable ones, regularly to enquire about their children and to offer support to them.

During the lockdown some of the staff helped at the Ysgol Y Ddwylan HWB, in order to offer support to the key workers in the area, including pupils of Ysgol Penboyr, from 8am to 6 pm. Breakfast, lunch and tea was prepared for the pupils. We greatly appreciate the special care those staff gave to the keyworkers.

As part of the Mental Health Awareness week (May 18th to 24th), Mrs Carys Davies, our Healthy Schools co-ordinator, prepared a well-being video which was shared to pupils and parents of Ysgol Penboyr, Governors and County officials. Activities and different challenges were set for the pupils on Facebook, an app and the school Twitter feed each day. Pupils wrote prayers and special self-isolating raps during that week, e.g. Shane aged 11 and Jac aged 11. [Check out Jac's rap](#)



On June 3rd we had the good news that school would open on June 29th. During the week before re-opening we hosted HWB in Ysgol Penboyr for pupils of key workers and for the following three weeks. Thank you to the staff for getting the school ready for re-opening by putting up two-metre distance signage, hand-washing facilities, marking places, clearing materials, ordering PPE etc.

It was pure joy to welcome back pupils and staff to school from June 29th. They were given the opportunity to return in year groups and had the chance to catch up with their friends and staff. To end the term we arranged a surprise lunchtime party for year 6: sausage, chips and ice cream! Their parents came to the school yard, maintaining social distancing, and we

had an emotional farewell assembly together to finish a very different year in the history of the school.

[Some of the pupils' prayers about Covid-19 can be found here:](#)