



Headteacher:
Mrs L.J. Lewis

Marshfield Primary School

Marshfield Road, Castleton, Cardiff, CF3 2UW

Tel: 01633 680303 ✨ E-mail: school@marshfieldprimary.co.uk
Web: marshfieldprimary.co.uk ✨ Twitter: [@MarshfieldPSN](https://twitter.com/MarshfieldPSN)

9th December, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have received a growing number of emails and telephone calls regarding the end of term. Many of you are increasingly worried about the implications of the pandemic for your families as we near Christmas.

I thought it would be useful to outline the current situation so that you as families can make informed decisions regarding the end of term.

The Welsh Government have expressed to local authorities their desire for schools to remain open until the last day of term, unless local circumstances dictate otherwise. We also recognise that some Local Authorities have made differing decisions. Newport City Council have made the decision to keep schools open.

In a letter to schools, NCC stated the following: -

In line with the approach agreed between Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association, in-person teaching and learning is planned to continue at Newport schools until the end of the term.

All schools have robust Covid-secure policies and practices in place, and while it is inevitable there will be cases and schools affected, for which the blended learning offer has been developed to mitigate those absences, the council wishes to maximise opportunities for face-to-face teaching.

We also recognise the pressures that have been placed on parents and carers having to juggle work and other commitments with supporting children who have had to remain at home.

I would like to emphasise that there continues to be robust and consistent measures in place at Marshfield to ensure that children remain in their bubbles and that any cases are confined to these. The team here are doing everything possible to keep our children safe.

It is unfortunate that classes have had to isolate but this is inevitable due to the increase in cases in our community, Newport and Wales. Since the return to statutory schooling in June, we have had three bubble classes out of sixteen that have been asked to isolate for a given period. It is unfortunate that nearly all schools in our region have had to isolate pupils.



Headteacher:
Mrs L.J. Lewis

Marshfield Primary School

Marshfield Road, Castleton, Cardiff, CF3 2UW

Tel: 01633 680303 ✨ E-mail: school@marshfieldprimary.co.uk
Web: marshfieldprimary.co.uk ✨ Twitter: [@MarshfieldPSN](https://twitter.com/MarshfieldPSN)

It is impossible to speculate on whether there will be further periods of isolation for our children. At the beginning of term, we were told to be prepared for isolation periods and therefore worked hard to put in place an enhanced blended learning programme for the pupils of Marshfield, should it be required.

I would also like to stress that the adults at school are making unapparelled efforts to keep things as normal as possible for the children. Over the next two weeks we have planned a range of opportunities including Christmas activities. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the staff who have battled on with great passion through the pandemic.

I am aware that many families may decide to keep their children at home next week to avoid any possible notification to self-isolate. I completely understand the current predicament and would like to reassure families that they will not be penalised if this is their decision.

Please let the office know if you take the decision to keep your child at home. If you choose to do so, the EWO has confirmed that this absence will be unauthorised. The Welsh Government has specified that in this instance, school does not need to supply work. However, as a school we want to support all families, whatever their decision.

Below are the wonderful topics that each year group will be exploring next term. The children may wish to find out a little bit more about these before they begin them in January.



Headteacher:
Mrs L.J. Lewis

Marshfield Primary School

Marshfield Road, Castleton, Cardiff, CF3 2UW

Tel: 01633 680303 ✨ E-mail: school@marshfieldprimary.co.uk
Web: marshfieldprimary.co.uk ✨ Twitter: @MarshfieldPSN

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
<p><u>Winter</u></p> <p>Find out about animals from cold lands. Which animals hibernate? Can you create a 3D cold land animal? What about a cold scene collage.</p>	<p><u>On the move – cars and travel</u></p> <p>Find out about different ways of travelling. Which is your favourite? Can you design your own vehicle?</p>	<p><u>Take a Selfie</u></p> <p>Can you tell me all about yourself? How old are you? Who is in your family? What are likes and dislikes? You can write all about yourself or maybe you could record a video.</p>	<p><u>Space</u></p> <p>Find out about the planets and record what you find out in your own way. E.g. a fact file, poster or piece of artwork.</p>

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
<p><u>Kaleidoscope of wonder and discovery</u></p> <p>What sorts of things do you wonder about? Space? The oceans? Rainbows? Find out about something that makes you wonder. Record what you find out in your own way. E.g. a fact file, poster or piece of art.</p>	<p><u>Rock my World</u></p> <p>Research how can we be more environmentally friendly? How can we take better care of the world we live in? Present your findings in any way you choose e.g. a poster, fact file, PowerPoint or piece of artwork.</p>	<p><u>Digital Creativity</u></p> <p>Research famous tablet artists. E.g. Andy Maitland and David Hockney What can you find out about them and their style of art? Record what you find out. Can you create a piece of artwork in that style?</p>	<p><u>Conflict -What does conflict mean?</u></p> <p>One of the topics you will cover will be WWII. Research and create a presentation to share with your peers into an aspect of WWII.</p>

In addition to this, the children can continue to access their MyMaths, Reading Buddies and Hwb accounts. Within Hwb they have access to j2easy where they will find a variety of resources for spelling and tables through 'J2 Blast', as well as areas to practise coding, create graphs and make presentations.

For children self-isolating, a full blended programme will continue until their isolation period ends.

After the announcement this morning from the Welsh Government regarding a reduction in the Covid isolation period, we are awaiting clarification from Newport health and safety department regarding the impact this will have on pupils currently self-isolating. Any decision will be communicated in a timely manner.

As the situation continues to evolve in Wales, it is likely that I will need to provide you with further updates.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation at this very challenging time,

Mrs Lewis and the Marshfield Team