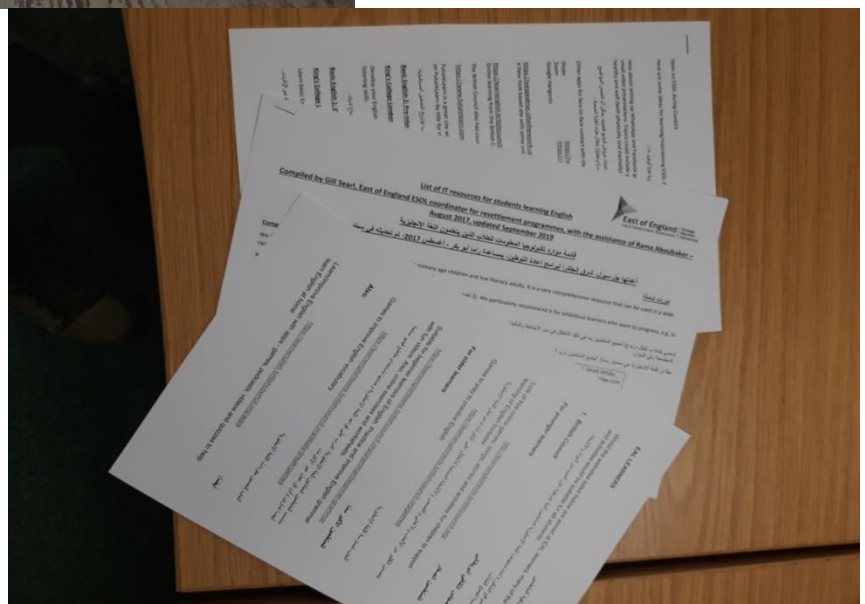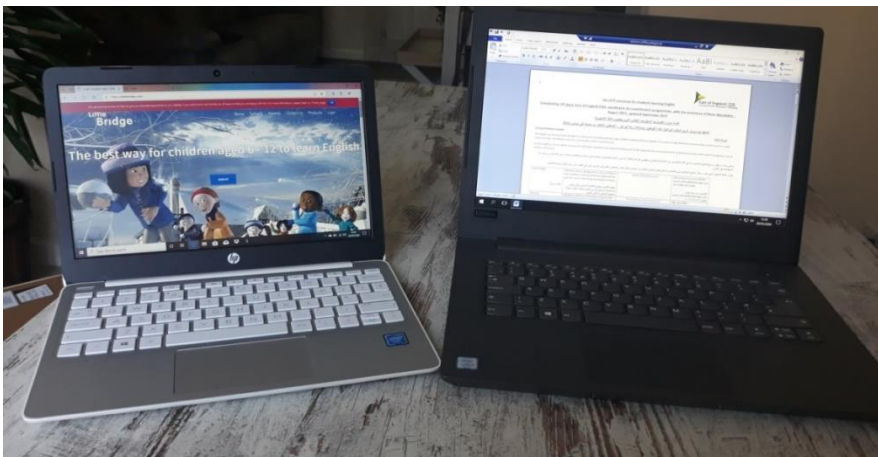## *Provision of education materials and equipment for VPRS families in Bridgend*

Following school closure due to COVID-19, Taff VPRS Team, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), school Head Teachers of Cefn Cribwr Primary, Brynmenyn Primary, Oldcastle Primary, Litchard Primary, Pil Primary and the Specialist Teacher for EAL/GT Education worked together to identify appropriate equipment, purchase and provide laptops and learning materials to most disadvantaged VPRS families with large cohort of children in primary school age.

Five families were nominated:  Omer, Alwaad , Hassan, Naser and Mallahassan . All families reported to have a connection to the Internet, however were deficient of appropriate equipment nor had enough of devices to be shared amongst all of the children.

After the laptops were purchased by BCBC, Taff VPRS team configured them with individual credentials and launched separate Microsoft accounts and Microsoft Office packages, whilst uploading all important and handy online links and websites for all learners to have access with one click.

## *Provision of education materials and equipment for VPRS families in Bridgend*

Configuration of the laptops was completed with local and national educational materials and resources which were translated into Arabic. Amongst a variety of materials there were provisions for ESOL learners from **British Council** learning online platform with a lot of free online games, songs, stories and activities for children, young and older students to support remote learning. Additionally, learners were guided to access highly recommend **Little Bridge** for all learners including primary age children and low literacy adults. It is a very comprehensive resource that can be used in a wide range of ways, including in schools, community centres and at home.

Furthermore, a website link for **Really English** was added to the essential digital list of resources which is an excellent resource for all higher-level learners We particularly endorsed it for ambitious learners who want to progress, e.g. to further education.

All equipment, log-in credentials and materials were packaged in bundles and delivered individually to all families by support workers.



*Alya and Laven would like to thank everybody involved for providing and delivering the laptop. LAVEN is very happy since she received and used the device to learn and play.*

علىكـ تديرز شـكركم الأو ضاعـ بها الاهـ تمام بـعـتوالاـ ن وز شـكركم ز عـلـ يمـمـشان لابـ توب الـفـر عطـ يكم الـ ولاد عافـ ية

*Many thanks to All for sending the computer to me and my children. The children are a lot happier than before. Thanks again for your support – Mohammed Abbas*

*I would like to direct a special thank you to all of the staff, for supplying the laptops to us to aid learning for the children, especially during these tough times…- Mr Riyadh*

\#

## *Provision of education materials and equipment for VPRS families in Bridgend*



> *Hello everyone; I would like to thank you for gifting my children the laptop, they enjoy learning and sometimes playing with it, they are not bored in these current circumstances. Best regards, Safaa.*

Interestingly, Flash **Academy –** a range of EAL resources, some of which are free, is being piloted with three of the five families. Chosen families are able to access **Free Remote Working Packs** that facilitate robust and innovative learning. This programme is funded by Welsh Government and covers topics from story telling, literacy to geography and UK culture, providing up to 4 weeks of work for those young learners whom English is the second language.

All families and staff involved report that this project is something that has not been done before which promotes agile learning for all, whilst providing opportunity to complement typical support and educational work that is being done through VPRS Programme, Bridgend Council and Educational system and especially now in COVID -19 circumstances and hopefully will continue to benefit all students involved beyond the lockdown measures in Bridgend area.