



Broadwindsor Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

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“Learning and growing together”

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20th March 2020

Headteacher: Mr Philip Smith

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you after our usual praise assembly where we shared the success of the week and ended with a singing of Moana. I talked to the children that we should treat this day like the end of a half-term and that we are not sure when we will be back, but we will be coming back. My Staff team and I feel it is really important that our children go with that thought that they will be back soon. I assured Year 6 pupils that we will mark their time at Broadwindsor whenever we are back from this school closure. We will do the hoodies, we will have a disco for them and clap them out but in the future. We just feel today children need the hope that they will be coming back soon. Please help support this by picking up children in the normal way as if it is the end of term.

As previously shared, schools have been directed to close today and remain closed until further notice **except for children of key workers and vulnerable children**, as part of the country's ongoing response to COVID-19 (coronavirus). I promised I would write to you when I have further details.

I am writing to confirm that at ten past midnight today, the UK Government issued the following guidance for keyworkers and vulnerable groups -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision>

I have highlighted the key principles section from the document:

“Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
- If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
- Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
- Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
- Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response ... and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision.”

Further advice and guidance for parents and carers is available here -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers#critical-workers>

These are exceptional times, and in such times, we will do everything we can to stand together with our community. We aim to remain open to care for the children of these **critical key workers** who have **no other options open to them, and vulnerable pupils**.



In order to identify whether we are able to offer provision ourselves or will need to redirect families to other schools in liaison with the Local Authority, we will need to have an idea of the number of children who absolutely need this support, so please use this link to complete the survey **as soon as possible**:

<https://surveyhero.com/c/585e5445>

PE and Sports

Thank you to all the children who took part in the cross-country last week at Colfox School, Wednesday 11th March. The children showed amazing team spirit at the event encouraging all the rest of the Broadwindsor team when not running themselves.

Our Year 5 and 6 Tag Rugby team performed amazingly well on Saturday 7th March. We had a squad of 11 and they got better as they played as a team. The whole team rallied around each other and thank you to Mr Leader who coached them. We were all very muddy by the end of the morning and that was just the spectators!

The children today are busy trying out the things that they will be using as part of our home learning such as AR Reader, Sumdog and TT Rockstars. Just to remind you that children will come home with their packs and all their belongings. You will receive weekly learning updates from school which will be sent out via Parentmail so please ensure we have your up to date email address. Each class will also have a class email address which they can send back messages and queries but also celebrate with staff the learning experiences through pictures and messages. If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **immediately** via email or phone. Please continue to do this once the school is closed.

Finally, school will remain the hub for our learning communication and as I said to the pupils today Broadwindsor School doesn't need to be in a building to be a school. This time will pass and we will get back to normal. Please if you need support or help in any way please contact the school through the usual contact routes.

Thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Best wishes,

Philip Smith

Headteacher



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