



Broadwindsor Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Drimpton Road
Broadwindsor
Beaminster
Dorset
DT8 3QL

“Learning and growing together”

Tel/Fax: 01308 868376

Email: office@broadwindsor.dorset.sch.uk

School website: www.broadwindsor.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Philip Smith

2.4.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, a big thank you to all of you for your efforts with home-learning over the last two weeks. We have loved seeing your photographs, messages and work you have been sending to class email addresses. Teaching staff have tried to give you a balance of different learning opportunities for the children to explore across the week. Staff teams monitor class email addresses and we would like you to try and email something in to the class team each week. Staff then know how you are getting on and that, along with your child's participation in online activities such as Sumdog and AR reader, helps us know you are engaging in learning at this tricky time. We will email each week or call if we haven't heard from you, just to check everything is ok as part of our commitment to keep our Broadwindsor learning community together and safe.



Officially, the school should be on Easter holidays over the next two weeks. However, school will be open for the majority of the Easter holidays and staff working on a reduced rota to provide support for key worker families and those vulnerable families as set out by Government guidelines. This will enable staff to have a break, recharge their batteries and spend more time with their own families. As a result, we will not be monitoring class email addresses during these two weeks. You are more than welcome to send any photographs of things that you have been doing to these accounts. If you have any urgent concerns or need support during the next two weeks please email office@broadwindsor.dorset.sch.uk and staff in school over the break will do their best to respond and help.

We appreciate that this may be a long two weeks so on Friday each teacher will send out a newsletter with lots of ideas and challenges you might like to do over the Easter period if you so wish. The Smith family are hoping to catch up on some of our favourite movies and play some board games. Class teachers will resume the normal home learning activities on Monday 20th April. Staff are already planning lots of ideas and different ways children can explore the topics we would have covered at school after Easter.



Safeguarding

Keeping children safe remains one of our top priorities during these unprecedented times. Student well-being and safety are vitally important to us and during the enforced school closure period, we remain absolutely committed to keeping children safe. If you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding of children, we are still here for you so please do not hesitate to contact us in the following ways:



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During the school week 8.45am - 3.15pm in term-time, ring the school phone number 01308 868376 and ask to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputies, or email office@broadwindsor.dorset.sch.uk starting the message with FAO the DSL.

If you cannot make contact at school or it is outside of these hours, contact Dorset Council on 01305 228866 (single point of contact for safeguarding). The link below also has all the relevant contact details

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/worried-about-a-child.aspx>

Staying Safe online

We have moved very quickly to all our children being online a lot more and it is important that we give children more tools to stay safe when online. We use the Life Education resources to teach our PHSE curriculum within school which includes online safety matters. I have included a link below to the page on their website as the children are very familiar with these materials. Life Education have included some really good activities you might like to explore with your child on improving online safety awareness. There is also a link to the CEOP website on this page, which is releasing fortnightly 15 minute activity packs to keep children topped up on their understanding of how to be safe online.



<https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/staying-safe-online?edit>

If parents need a bit more support on protecting their child online, the link below has some very useful guidance.

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics>

There is also available online a good internet safety book for under 5s which would be suitable for our Reception and pre-school children at home.

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/explore-online-safety-with-under-5s-with-our-new-learning-to-read-book>

Supporting Emotional Health and Well Being

Alongside the newsletter, I have also included another document which gives details of lots of organisations which can help support us with our mental health and wellbeing. I do think the following resource again from Life Education is a great way to support your child's emotional health and takes the form of a daily diary from Harold giving the children little challenges. I really recommend it and I will certainly be using it with my younger child.



<https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/harolds-daily-diary>



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Do try to enjoy Easter and make it as normal as possible for the children.

My top five tips are:

- Set an Easter egg hunt in the garden or around the house (with clues on pretend Easter eggs)
- Make an Easter Hat with scrap art materials or an Easter garden from garden materials
- Make chocolate nests or other Easter cooking– no need for flour which I can't seem to get anywhere!
- Look for signs of spring in your garden or on a walk (following social distancing guidance of course).
- Aim to read at least 3 times in each week of the two week break.

We all look forward to hearing how you spent Easter and what you got up to after the break.

The whole school community would have been taking part in our Easter service on Friday and I know how much the children enjoy exploring the Easter Story with Rev Jo. The Beaminster team have put together some great resources to explore Easter at home including an Easter video message from Rev Jo!

If you want to see the video and do some of the activities this is the link to their website.

<https://beaminsterteamchurches.org/ideas-for-children-families-at-easter/>

Wishing you a positive and safe Easter

Phil Smith
Headteacher



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