



# 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](mailto:office@broadwindsor.dorset.sch.uk)

School website: [www.broadwindsor.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.broadwindsor.dorset.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mr Philip Smith

27.4.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all your lovely pictures and messages around Easter activities you have been involved in. I know class teachers are sending you a weekly montage of photographs and other things that you are sending us which are great to share with your child and help you stay connected. This Easter was certainly a strange time but I do hope you made the best of it at home.

How are you all doing? I must admit I had an up and down week myself last week. The start of the summer term was a strange first week and not what we are all used to. Hopefully you are getting into a routine that works for you at home with your child's learning. Please do contact us if you are having any difficulties with approaching the home-learning using the class email addresses.



As a school we are recommending that children should do the following every school day: 2 hours learning (inc. Maths, English: Spelling, Writing & Reading, and Topic/Creative work), and 1 hour of exercise. This is a minimum recommendation only and could be more, should you wish!

We put this guidance in to our class newsletters this week as some parents wanted to know how much they should be trying to get their child engaged in learning. We appreciate that every household is coming to this in different ways with some of you having multiple siblings all trying to use the same equipment, no printer ink and juggling work – these are just some of the things you are facing. The school thinks you are all doing an amazing job out there in very unusual circumstances.

## Online resources

Not being able to access reading books may be an issue you are facing. Accelerated Reader have released access to 7,000 of their online books from 'Myon'. We have put together a handy guide of how to use it which is on our school website. You can search books by topic area and it also includes being able to search by the accelerated reader level. Once the children have completed the book, make a note of AR quiz and complete the AR quiz as normal. Of course younger pupils are hopefully using 'Oxford Owls' to access online reading books.



<https://readon.myon.co.uk/library/browse.html>

Alongside our school offer, the Department for Education are working with other organisations to provide other online lessons. You may have heard about BBC daily online lessons which began last Monday, which aims to give bite size lessons across the curriculum in Year groups 1 to 10.



In fact from next week, White Rose maths, which we have been using in our newsletters, will be linked up with the BBC maths lessons. You can take a look using the link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

Oak National Academy is also offering daily lessons which include teacher-led video lessons and quizzes to complete. I have tried out these with my own children and they are great if you want to try something different and mix things up. Alice, my own daughter, had a go at the Spanish lesson last week and some history lessons. If you are going to dip into the odd lesson access the lesson via the subject search and start with the first lesson in the sequence.

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

Thank you to all of you who completed the online survey around ICT equipment you have at home so that we could complete a survey from Dorset Council. We had 56 responses from the 70 families at Broadwindsor School. We understand from the survey that while all of you have internet access at home, the majority of you are juggling using devices such as laptops and tablets between you at home (Around 2/3 of you). 5% of our families do not have a laptop or tablet within the household to complete online activities and rely on mobile phones. If you are one of these families with only mobile phones within the household please contact the school office email address and we will look into what we can do to support you.



#### Keeping contact with school

As I said in the Easter newsletter, teaching staff are trying to give you a balance of different learning opportunities for the children to explore across the week. Staff teams check messages on class email addresses and we would like to hear from you **each week via email**. 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.

In the latest class newsletters which went out on Friday, we also asked for your feedback on what we plan for you as home-learning so that we can develop further resources moving forward. Contact school via the class email account for queries and issues around learning

#### Taking care of yourselves

Please look on the school website if you are needing to access support around your own or your child's wellbeing and all the previous resources I have mentioned are on the website too. An online book about explaining the coronavirus to your child is freely available from the following website link:

<https://nosycrow.com/blog/released-today-free-information-book-explaining-coronavirus-children-illustrated-gruffalo-illustrator-axel-scheffler>

The Children's Commissioner has put together resources on the same subject. Some of these resources are for older pupils so please view them yourselves before sharing with your child.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/childrens-guide-to-coronavirus/>



If your financial circumstances have changed and you feel you may be entitled to Free School Meal support, do use the Dorset Council free checking service, which can be found here - <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/at-school/free-school-meals.aspx>

Using the checking tool is easy – you just need your NI number and some basic details about yourself and your child(ren). The information is confidential and the school will not be told any specific details about your financial circumstances.

The school remains open to provide support for key worker families and those vulnerable families as set out by government guidelines. If you need support in other ways you are more than welcome to email [office@broadwindsor.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@broadwindsor.dorset.sch.uk) and staff in school will do their best to respond and help as soon as possible.

Please keep in contact with us and on behalf of all the staff at Broadwindsor 'Stay safe'.

Phil Smith  
Headteacher

