



Broadwindsor Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

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“Learning and growing together”

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Headteacher: Mr Philip Smith

7.5.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I want to say big thank you to all our learning community. We appreciate that this hasn't been an easy task and as I said in my previous newsletter, we understand every household is having to juggle home-learning around a different set of circumstances. We have been blown away with all the children's efforts over this school closure period and we know that you as parents are the driving force behind these achievements. School staff are currently putting together a special thank you in terms of a video message with as many staff contributing to it as possible. Fingers crossed we can put it altogether quickly and we will send it out to you very soon.



We also appreciate your feedback on how we are doing and have discussed your thoughts carefully. Rest assured everything we try to do is with all of you in mind and is the best we can do with the resources we have at hand. From the communications we have with you, we know how much you value the feedback from staff in their emails to you and that the personalised words of encouragement are by far the most important to you. As you are aware our weekly praise assembly and the special mentions is integral to what we do at our school. With our usual praise assembly format not really an option, we need to think creatively about our special mentions and make it accessible to all our families. Therefore, we would like you to nominate your child for a special mention so that it can reward the achievements and milestones that you are noticing at home whether they are big or small. The intention is that it will give the whole family a bit of a boost and to help you all stay motivated as well as reward your child. We will send a parent mail early next week on how you can make nominations.

You should receive your weekly newsletter by Parentmail from your child's class team every Friday afternoon so if you haven't received it for some reason please do contact the class email address and a member of the team will re-send to you.

VE Celebrations

Friday 8 May marks the 75th Anniversary of VE Day – the official end of the Second World War in Europe, and if we had been in school this week, I am sure we would have commemorated this landmark occasion in some way. I have attached a useful link below to the Dorset Council with lots of lovely ideas on how you could celebrate the occasion safely at home. I am sure there will be lots out there across the media for you to tune in to, but you might also want to have a go at making something or have a VE day picnic in your home or garden. Maybe even try and make some homemade bunting or flags to decorate your home.



We would love to hear how you celebrate the occasion and remember to send in your photographs.

<https://news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/2020/05/01/ideas-to-help-plan-your-own-ve-day-celebration/>

We are creating some bunting and pom poms to decorate the school gates to brighten our spirits and mark this occasion during these unprecedented times. So if you live in Broadwindsor, please do come and have a look as part of your daily exercise, bearing in mind current social distancing regulations.

Online resources

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the Department for Education are working with other organisations to provide online lessons. You may have heard about BBC daily online lessons which began last Monday, aiming to give bite size lessons across the curriculum in Year groups 1 to 10. Lots of you have already tried these activities and know the topic area White Rose maths which links up with the BBC maths lessons.

<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. When considering lessons from here click on the subject area and start with the first lesson in the sequence. Here is the link for this resource:

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

Link for online books with lots of them linked to AR quizzes. As this is a free resource you might want to check the AR quiz is the correct one as some of the books do not seem to match the quiz or don't actually have a quiz.

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

Please do also look at Rev Jo's weekly Collective Worship each week. Past links are on the school website.

Taking care of yourselves

Please look on the school website if you need to access support around your own or your child's wellbeing. Any resources mentioned by us in our newsletters are added to the school website so please take a look.

As this prolonged period of school closure continues and press speculation around a phased return is everywhere, this is becoming more tricky for all of us. So please do email us or leave a message on the school phone if you need our support. School staff are able to contact you via email each weekday within the school day and teaching staff are happy to talk to you or your child on the phone when they are in school.

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 for this or in any other ways you are more than welcome to email office@broadwindsor.dorset.sch.uk and staff in school will do their best to respond and help as soon as possible.

Please remember to keep in contact with us and send us an email each week sharing some of your home-learning. Staff then know how you are getting on and most importantly we love to hear how the children are doing.

Friday 8th May is a bank holiday, a small group of us are in school on this day providing essential childcare. Other staff will be taking the day off away from their usual monitoring of class email accounts. They will be back to it on Monday 11th May as normal. If you urgently need our support on this day please email the office email account or look on the school website for important phone numbers you might require.

Thank you for your continued support. The staff team are very proud of you all.

Take care and stay safe.

Phil Smith
Headteacher

