



Broadwindsor Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Drimpton Road
Broadwindsor
Beamminster
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

26.6.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am hoping this finds you all well. The hot weather again has helped us be outside but seeing the pictures at Bournemouth beaches once again alarmed me. Please do not take unnecessary risks when you are out about. I also know that the talk around leisure facilities and holidays being allowed to open from July 4th, while a positive step, brings frustration around all the children still not being back at school. All this talk and images in the media can raise our emotions quickly and can change how we are feeling. We must be good to ourselves and be aware of others around us. Do contact school if you need support or contact well-being services, a list of which can be found on our school website.

Over the last two weeks I have personally realised that life's challenges carry on whether we have Covid-19 or not. Unfortunately I was admitted to hospital for a short while for an unplanned operation last Tuesday after not feeling well and was so thankful for our NHS staff. I am pleased to say I am now much better and back to work. I want to say a big thank you to the staff who continue to be so dedicated and have kept our school running in my absence.

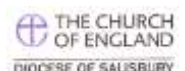
I promised to update you regularly with the current situation so hence writing to you again. Firstly I want to recognise publicly again how difficult this situation is for our whole learning community. Phased return, while it has allowed us to have those three year groups in school, must make it feel like we have abandoned our other four year groups. This couldn't be further from our intention at school where we are constantly looking very closely at any possibility to improve the situation for those families. This is why home-learning, email support and phone contact is a continued priority focus. We also understand that the children find it hard to stay motivated when at home. Please remember we still have the opportunity to send you a special mention email so if you want to give your child a boost, the link is still available here – [Special Mentions](#)

Some schools in Dorset are welcoming other pupils from different year groups but the guidance for this clearly says only where there is space in school and using staff not already involved in learning bubbles. In my previous letter I outlined why we were unable to welcome further year groups and the guidance hasn't changed since then.

Announcements by the Prime Minister and Education Secretary last week informing us that all pupils will return in September gives us at last hope that we can get back to some normality. All of us at school are holding on to this fact that very soon all our children will be back. We are therefore making it a priority for us to prepare for this and communicate with you what this looks like. Unfortunately there has been no further guidance since this announcement or changes in how we can currently operate school. All we have in school is the copy of the speech with promises outlined to you. Speaking to advisors from Dorset Council, further guidance will hopefully be with schools next week. I will keep you posted!



BEAMMINSTER PYRAMID



Our main focus must be now to support our pupils' transition into their new year groups over the remaining few weeks. We are currently looking to offer a short face-to-face session with all of those year groups currently not in school with their teacher for September at the end of the final week. If we can do this and get the go ahead from Dorset Council we will do.

Other things planned:

- Home learning will include transition activities in final week
- Summer fun task from their teacher for September and reading challenge

More Technology for School

The PTA has kindly donated £2,000 pounds to school to help us invest in more technology. This will enable the school to have laptops with cameras and more computers within school. We are so grateful for injections of funds as I am sure you are aware the school has had limited access to technology. The school is making this a priority which will make us more future proof against any further issues with Covid-19 in the future. We are hoping to teach children next year when back in school in using Microsoft Teams which could support any future need for home-learning. Dorset Council has also now relaxed the rules on using 'Zoom' within maintained schools and are confident it is a safe medium to use. Mr Harris (ICT support and teacher) is helping Mrs Killick set up a trial Zoom session for Year 2 pupils. If this works we will then try to work with those pupils in other year groups at home to have a session before the end of term. Fingers crossed!

School reports

Teaching staff are currently writing school reports for all pupils which is an annual requirement. Previously I wrote to you that these will be in much less detail than last year and will be based on our observations and assessments of pupils prior to school closure in March. Usually parents have the opportunity to discuss their child's report if required. This would need to be a telephone conversation with their teacher and depending on uptake of this much of this we will need to take place at the start of the Autumn term. This year we would appreciate completing the reply form which includes a section for pupils to complete which will help support preparations for September and targeting learning for individuals.

Celebrating Year 6

Mr Draper and the Year 6 staff team have organised some lovely activities for the Year 6 which are permitted within current Government guidance so please look out for the letter next week and arrangements for the final day. The children will also receive their hoodies this week too. In order to facilitate a socially distanced clap out of the building on the last day, we need short video clips of the whole school clapping. This could be as individuals or as family groups. These will be put together into a film which will be played in all the classrooms for a Year 6 procession out of school on the last day after all the other children have left the building, where they can be clapped outside by their parents. Please send your clapping movie clips to: janeausten@broadwindsor.dorset.sch.uk.



Sports' week

Hopefully you have received the letter about Sports week next week. As school is not able to host our usual annual sports day we are setting a virtual challenge for all our community to take part in. Dorset School Games have created a virtual pentathlon that we think all of the children could take part in, either in school or at home. The virtual Pentathlon has 5 challenges. You could do these one a day or have your own sports day.

You can find the guidance for the virtual pentathlon through this link – copy and paste it into your internet browser:

<https://www.pedssa.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/virtual-Pentathlon.pdf>

The PTA are also organising a sponsored fun run so another opportunity to get active next week. We would love to see your photographs taking part in sports week and we will put a montage together as always. Please send any photos of your activities to the class emails.

PTA Update

Message from the PTA:

The PTA recently held their first Zoom meeting where they agreed to cover the majority of the costs of the Year 6 Leavers hoodies. The PTA looks forward to seeing them wear them! The group has also been discussing virtual events. Please note in your diaries the 10th July when Rev Jo Neary and her trusty sidekick William, will be hosting our first virtual family quiz. More information about how to sign up will follow next week.

The PTA would also like to celebrate the 100 pupils we have at school and are organising a 100 mile sponsored fun run. So dust off your trainers and look out for our beautifully designed posters.

The whole school staff have given their all to keep us altogether as a community through this Coronavirus crisis and won't rest until we have all our pupils back with us. It is the final push now and I ask everyone to hang in there. Please contact us if you need anything. Your support and understanding is more important than ever to us so please stay with us.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 29 th June – Friday 3 rd July	Sports Week
Monday 13 th July –Thursday 16 th July Thursday 16 th July	Year 6 Leavers activities week Last day for in school learning for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils
Friday 17 th July	End of term and school closes for Summer holidays
Monday 7 th September	School re-opens for pupils

Kind Regards

Philip Smith

