



Broadwindsor Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

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“Learning and growing together”

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Headteacher: Mr Philip Smith

3.6.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last half of the summer term is upon us and usually I would be welcoming you all back. Instead we have more children in school (around 20 across the school) but by far we still have most of you learning from home. I do hope you managed to get out and about within the Government guidelines last week. The weather continued to be kind to us and allowed us to be outdoors lots during half-term. Seeing those pictures of packed beaches at Durdle Door last week alarmed me and shows how we still need to be vigilant and not take unnecessary risks. This is especially important for those families who are sending their children to school that they don't put children and staff from their own class groups at risks by not following guidelines around meeting others.

Transition arrangements

I would also usually be talking to you about transition arrangements for our oldest pupils and for those pupils moving classes. I wanted to reassure you that we are thinking about it but we are waiting to see what happens over the next couple of weeks and what Government plans are likely to be for schools next. We already know that Year 6 pupils will not be able to visit their secondary school this term but we are in contact with teachers from the local secondary schools to liaise as we always do. I know that Year 6 parents have been sent information and forms to directly communicate with their child's secondary schools. We are hoping to communicate with our new Reception intake parents by the start of next week about how initial thoughts around transition and starting school in September is likely to be. We are doing all we can to make transition as smooth as possible but usual transition arrangements will not be possible.

It has been lovely to see some of our Year 6 pupils back and all of us recognise it is an important milestone with them leaving Broadwindsor this summer. Mr Draper and other staff are looking at ways of marking this occasion and want to reassure parents whether they have their child in school or at home we will include everyone. So watch this space but it will probably involve using technology!

The teachers are required to prepare school reports for all our children annually and this responsibility continues during this Covid-19 outbreak. As you can imagine this will be a challenge on a number of levels and so for this year we will be providing a much shorter version. These will be written for all children regardless of the child learning at home or at school currently and will reflect their learning primarily up to school closure in March.

Home-learning

How is home-learning going for you this week after half term last week? Each week will probably be a bit different for you all and as I have found with my own daughter, some weeks your child is more receptive to getting down to learning than others. I have found having a timetable with several small slots worked for us best with her deciding which bits of learning to do where.



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As a school we are recommending that children should do every school day: 2 hours of home-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 also appreciate every household is coming to this in a different way and juggling lots of things.

Teachers will send their usual home-learning newsletters for all year groups this Friday as usual and support will continue for all families still at home. Response times to class emails will obviously be a bit slower now all our teachers are in the classrooms. Please remember to email class email accounts at least once each week so we know how you are doing and keep us altogether as a learning community. Staff will continue to email you 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.

Alongside our school offer, BBC daily online lessons has learning for a wide range of subjects including English and Maths.

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

Oak National Academy is also offering daily lessons which include a teacher-led video lessons and quizzes to complete. 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/>

Update on Phased return for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6

The first children from these year groups started back on Tuesday. It was nice to see some more faces back at school. Obviously, the environment is very different but the children seem happy and the new systems in place worked well. We ask parents that you bring children not before the drop off time. You have a ten minute window to drop off between groups. This allows less waiting time to enter school and less parent traffic in the playground. We are expecting a few more pupils to start from these year groups next week so please help us by arriving during your dropping off time session.

Key Worker group (Y2,Y3,Y4,Y5) children drop off time: 8.30-8.40am

Year 6 drop off time: 8.45-8.55am

Year 1 drop off time: 9.00-9.10am

Reception drop off time: 9.15-9.25am

Shorter session times will continue to at least the end of next week. During this period, we will evaluate our approach and work out how many days we can extend to and for what year groups.

The pick-up times continue to be:

Key Worker group pick up time: 1.30pm

Year 6 pick-up time: 1.15pm

Year 1 pick-up time: 1pm

Reception pick up time: 12.45pm



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The school will continue to be open for Key Worker families until 3.15pm where needed each day. Key Worker requests need to be received by Wednesday each week so that we plan for the following week. Key Worker families in Year R, 1 and 6 need to be picked up at the session time for their year group unless the Key Worker parent requires 'essential child care'. In this case the child will be cared for by one of our support staff in their year group team until you can pick them up. Again, we need to know by Wednesday each week for the following week.

If you would like your child to return to school and they are in Year R, Year 1 and Year 6, please contact the school office by 1pm on Thursday each week to start the following week. So if you would like your child to start on 8th June please contact us by tomorrow. A lot of planning and individual resources need to be made ready in advance of your child starting and so therefore we cannot accept children turning up on the day to start.

Contacting the school

If you need support around home-learning or need to contact your child's teacher then please contact the school via the class email address. For other queries or support you require please contact the school office via email office@broadwindsor.dorset.sch.uk. With all queries we will do our best to respond and help as soon as possible. The school office is closed to visitors so all contact needs to be via email or telephone.

On behalf of all the staff at Broadwindsor 'Stay safe' and thanks for your continued support.

Phil Smith

Headteacher



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