



Broadwindsor Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

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“Learning and growing together”

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24.9.20

Headteacher: Mr Philip Smith

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe the children have been back nearly three weeks already. The children are really settling back well into the new school year and are confident with our new routines. Our reception children have especially surprised us and they are learning extremely well together. Yesterday they took part in their first Collective Worship with the rest of the school using Microsoft Teams and it was lovely to see their smiling faces waving to the rest of the school.



Our collective worship programme this term will look at a bit different as Children remain in 'bubbles'. At the moment Rev Jo is currently sending her Collective Worship via You Tube which as always the children enjoy looking forward to. The rest of the assemblies are happening via TEAMS or are class assemblies.

We are using Coram Education resources for our PHSE and citizenship lessons to reintroduce SCARF. Each week the children are hearing messages using Harold and his friends to support them being back in school. So far we have looked at Safety, Caring and Achievement. The children have follow-up lessons in class where they have time to discuss how they are feeling about these important themes. We are also having a praise assembly using TEAMS on Thursday afternoons where we are sharing the children's achievements through special mentions. Each teacher reads out their special mentions for their class and then the whole-school gives them a clap across the internet! It has been fun learning to use this technology and yesterday the technology (or rather the operators!) got it working the best it has done so far!

Learning in School

The children are enjoying using the whole-school text 'Here we are' to inspire their writing and other English skills. In our upcoming praise assembly we will celebrate the children's achievement during this project. It has inspired lots of thinking, talking and most importantly some lovely writing for children to show us their current skills. We are putting together a collection of children's work and we will put it on the school website shortly.



We have also been impressed with how the children have come back to their maths learning. We are using techniques such as pre-teaching, mini-assessments and lots of mathematical equipment to help support any gaps in their learning. Continuing to use White Rose Maths during school closure helped many pupils to maintain their mathematical understanding during this time and quickly get back into using the approach at school now.

Our first priority in school is to ensure any gaps in the children's reading development are narrowed quickly as this impacts them accessing all lessons. The school uses Read Write Inc as our main phonic scheme to teach reading. School staff received support from Literacy Consultant Leah Foreshaw on Tuesday via Zoom calls and as a result school has an action plan to ensure children catch-up quickly. This will mean identified children will receive one to one catch-up and small group extra reading. School also uses AR Reader for older pupils

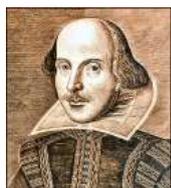


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which again has been a success during school closure and supported children with maintaining their reading skills. Since returning, the children have continued to use this programme to complete quizzes and we are seeing positive results. School staff also appreciate your support on reading at home and sharing a wide range of books.

Teaching staff had a further session with Mr Harris after school this week to develop our online capabilities. Our online resources Oxford Owls, AR Reader, Sumdog and TT Rockstars are proving to be great investments and have many features which we are learning to use to get the best of. Children are using these in school and practising logging on and completing challenges so if children need to be off initially this will be what we ask pupils to use for home-learning. Mr Harris is also helping the school set up Microsoft TEAMS accounts for all pupils. This will allow pupils to log in and collect learning and communicate with school staff if home-learning is more extended. Children are already starting to use TEAMS in school and we are hoping to have this in full action by half-term.



Young Shakespeare Company returns to our school next Thursday 1st October to give children in Key Stage 2 a socially distanced performance of 'Twelfth Night'. Each class bubble in Key Stage 2 will enjoy an active storytelling version of the performance separately. Previous performances have been very exciting and allow the children to experience Shakespeare in an accessible way for primary school aged pupils.

It was lovely to hear music in school this week as Music teachers return to school to offer instrument lessons. We currently have drumming, wind instruments and guitar lessons, along with virtual piano lessons. If your child is interested in learning an instrument it may still be possible to accommodate them so please contact the school office via email.



Keeping in contact with us

Hopefully, you have received a copy of your class newsletter from class teachers giving you details about this term and how you can support your child at home. We appreciate that you are not able to be so involved in school at the moment but we will try to share children's learning with you over the term on the website and other ways.

Parent consultations this term will be via the Zoom platform. It is hoped you will be able to book appointments shortly in preparation for the meetings which will take place week beginning 19th October. This will give an ideal opportunity to see how your child has settled back into school and discuss any questions you may have.

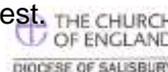
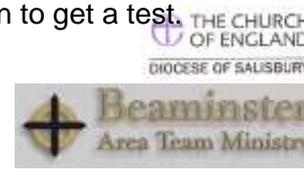
If you have queries around learning or your child's class the best way to contact staff is through the class email addresses. We endeavour to monitor these Monday-Friday up until 4pm and to respond as quickly as we can. It is also possible to contact the school office to arrange a phone call and teaching staff will try to call you back as soon as possible but this may be at the end of the day.

PTA Meeting AGM

Everyone is welcome to the PTA AGM on Wednesday 4th November 2020 at 2pm. This meeting will take place via Zoom. The PTA offers vital funding for the children at Broadwindsor School and needs new members to continue the fundraising success that we have had in the past.

Covid-19 Update

I apologise for so many communications on this matter including all the protocols that have been emailed to you over the past six months. We have today sent via Parentmail a letter from Public Health England to provide guidance on symptoms and when to get a test.



Over the last week through news coverage and as we move deeper into autumn, it is obvious the virus is already growing again. At the moment we are relatively lucky that numbers remain low in Dorset and you can check this each week by looking at the Dorset Council newsletter on their website. Everybody needs to do their bit to keep these levels low and to ensure the school remains open.

Firstly, we all need to be ultra-vigilant in spotting any signs that our children have of showing symptoms. These include a raised temperature, a new or persistent cough or a loss of taste and smell. It's going to be hard as parents to try and decipher in our children the difference between the normal coughs and colds that they always get in winter, with what is a potential COVID symptom. However it is essential that if anyone in your household does have one of the above symptoms, even if you think it is just a cold, you must isolate, get a test and let the school know. Follow the guidance in the PHE letter sent today, which includes a link to an NHS symptom checker. I want to thank parents for their support on this already and ensuring everyone else is safe.

Use our online learning resources to support pupils on the first day of self-isolation. Links to these will be on the school website shortly.

Secondly, it is important that we all keep our distance in school and this is especially important at the beginning and end of the day. The vast majority of us are doing this well but staff report to me that some parents are forgetting to do this especially at pick-up time. Please keep your distance from each other and ensure children waiting with you stay with you. This won't be for ever but is vital to reduce community transmission during this pandemic.

As we head further into the term we all need to be aware that there may be disruption as children and staff are asked to isolate if they are showing symptoms and awaiting test results. This could lead to class bubbles being temporarily closed if the advice recommends this. Having class bubbles will help to reduce the likelihood of the whole school closing. However, being a small staff team does make us more vulnerable to not having enough staff to operate safely. We will always follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England and the Department for Education including closing class bubbles and asking children and associated staff to self-isolate.



Finally I want to say a big thank you to our whole learning community, staff, parents and pupils. These are extraordinary times and it's been an intense six months already and as outlined above challenges lie ahead of us still. I want to especially mention our staff team who are doing an incredible job at teaching our children in what are very challenging circumstances. They are creating an environment that is happy and enriching whilst at the same time having the worries and concerns that we all have during this pandemic and I'd like to thank them for all their hard work. I also want to say a well done to our children who have made a great start back to school, showing determination to make the most of school. They are a great credit to you all.

Dates for the diary

Thursday 1st October	Young Shakespeare Company visiting KS2 pupils
W/c Mon 19 th October	Parent Consultations via Zoom
Friday 23 rd October	INSET Day – School closed for Pupils
Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th October	School closed for half term
Monday 2 nd November	School re-opens for pupils
Friday 6 th November	Individual school photographs (TBC)

Yours sincerely,
Philip Smith
Headteacher



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