



# Broadwindsor Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

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“Learning and growing together”

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Headteacher: Mr Philip Smith

21.10.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are nearly at the end of the half-term and staff have really enjoyed the opportunity to rebuild our relationships with all the children. The children have been amazing this half-term and have quickly got back into the routine of a new approach to school. The children are so thankful to be able to be back with their friends and have embraced all our learning opportunities. We are also so pleased with our new Reception children and the progress they are making with their learning and their sounds. Just a quick reminder that Friday this week is INSET day for teachers and the school will be closed for pupils. We are using this day to do more work on developing our curriculum which this year we are especially focusing on humanities subjects and Science.

## Keeping in contact with us

Hopefully you have found the opportunity to talk to your child's teacher using Zoom or over the telephone this week informative. The staff have found these meetings really useful and we have appreciated all the information that you have passed on to us especially around learning during lockdown. We all think that our partnerships with learning have strengthened through this time. However, we are missing seeing you all in school and can't wait to welcome you back into school when we are able to.

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.

## Learning in School



As I indicated in our previous newsletter we are following a recovery based curriculum which focuses on the children's core skills in the context of a topic approach which the school follows. Our most important priority in school is to ensure any gaps in the children's reading development are narrowed quickly as this impacts them accessing all lessons. I am pleased to report back that we are seeing good improvements in this area and children are working hard in reading both at school and home. Hopefully you are seeing their confidence in this at home. Another part of this recovery approach is to give the children lots of opportunity to explore their feelings and develop their social skills.

The children in Key Stage 2 had a wonderful day when the Young Shakespeare Company visited us recently and worked with us on 'Twelfth Night'.



I am pleased to say that instrument lessons are now back up and running and the children accessing this are really enjoying them. We currently have drumming, wind instruments and guitar lessons, along with virtual piano lessons. We are extending provision to have a group of recorder players learning with Mrs Hughes after half-term. 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.

After half-term we will begin to explore having a couple of after-school clubs for individual classes and trial how that works. Mr Harris and Lee Cuff have expressed an interest in maybe offering this. We are also looking to start a lunchtime football club. We will send details about any opportunities after half-term once we have updated our risk assessment.



Chance to Shine Cricket coaching returns to school after half term for pupils in Key Stage 2. Half a class will receive coaching before swapping over. For the first three weeks Mr Draper's class will receive coaching and Mrs Taylor's Class will receive coaching for the second block of three weeks.

Forest School returns on a Friday afternoon for William Barnes pupils for the next six weeks. Children from this class will receive a letter outlining the clothing requirements and forms that require completing.

### Being Prepared for Remote learning

Your child will be receiving a letter in their book bags this week with your child's log in details to our online platforms we will use in the event of using remote learning again. 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. Mr Harris, our ICT teacher, has helped the school to set up Microsoft TEAMS accounts for all pupils. This will allow pupils to log in and collect learning for home and communicate with school staff if home-learning is more extended. Children are already starting to use TEAMS in school and will be available to use after half-term for home-learning tasks. There are no current plans to close schools and this is just a precaution so that we are all prepared just in case.



### Harvest Giving Update



I have great news about the tap twinning charity giving for Harvest. The school and Broadwindsor Church community have raised an amazing £300.00 between us. We will now send this off so that we can find out which countries will receive our support. Our generosity value has certainly been encouraged with this and I have been hearing individual stories from the pupils giving their pocket money towards this project - which is amazing!

### British Legion Poppy Appeal

Broadwindsor School will be supporting the annual Poppy Appeal this November. This year we will have to organise the collection slightly differently due to Covid-19 restrictions. We will send out a sheet with the items available and a slip to return to school with the donation. Mrs Dawson will arrange for the item to be given to your child to be taken home at the end of the day.

### Yr 4 and Yr 6 Residential Visits

Usually, at the end of the summer term we would start to plan and secure places for Residential visits taking place the following year (Spring/Summer term). Unfortunately, Government guidance currently doesn't allow for pupils to stay overnight in a residential setting and therefore we have not booked these places for this year's current Yr 4 and 6 pupils. In order to secure these places, we would have had to have asked parents for



significant deposits at the beginning of this term, without knowing whether the Residential would in fact be able to take place. While we were able to eventually provide refunds to last year's parents for monies paid, this was a very lengthy and difficult process. Our insurance company advised us that they could not guarantee refunds for parent contributions for future residential trips. It is therefore highly unlikely that current Yr 4 and Yr 6 pupils will take part in any residential visits in 20/21, even if the Covid situation improves, as there is such a long planning process required. School will endeavour, however, to provide these year groups with alternative experiences that develop similar skills. More information will follow.

### PTA Meeting AGM

Everyone is welcome to the PTA AGM on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 and Your Help

As I said in the previous newsletter, the Dorset Council newsletter is emailed out to residents each week and is a good way of seeing how the levels are doing in Dorset. Levels while still low to some part of the country are rising quite quickly in Dorset and the rate per 100,000 has doubled in a week.

More than ever we have all got to do our bit so that schools remain open. Please keep your distance from each other especially at the end of the day. I thank you for promptness at picking up your child. Mary Anning and Thomas Hardy parents we ask that you pick up your child and leave straight away. I know some of you are waiting for siblings but please make sure your child stays with you. We are working really hard to keep class bubbles separate and we do not want the work undone at the end of the day.



Once again everyone at school wants to say a big well done to the children who have made a great start back to school in this half-term. They are a great credit to you all. I do hope you all enjoy the half-term and hope the children get some well-earned rest as they are all exhausted!

### Dates for the diary

W/c Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Consultations via Zoom
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	INSET Day – School closed for Pupils
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	School closed for half term
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	School re-opens for pupils
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Chance to Shine Cricket sessions start for Key Stage 2 pupils
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	PTA meeting via Zoom
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Individual school photographs - am (no family groups this year)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Last Day of Autumn term

Yours sincerely,

Philip Smith  
Headteacher





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Healthy Schools

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
DIOCESE OF SALISBURY

