



Broadwindsor Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Drimpton Road
Broadwindsor
Beaminster
Dorset
DT8 3QL

“Learning and growing together”

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School website: www.broadwindsor.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Philip Smith

11.11.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children seemed to have settled back into the second half-term back. I want to say a special warm welcome to our new pupils and their families. We are now at 103 pupils and the highest on roll for a long time.

Taking care of yourselves

How are you all doing? With further restrictions in place through the second lock down it isn't easy for everyone. Depending on what the restrictions means for your family and work and looking after relatives etc. it once again leads us to being all in different circumstances. I also feel we are all coming in to this period feeling less resilient and not wanting further isolation which is very understandable. We all need to keep looking out for each other and showing kindness wherever we can. I think plenty of fresh air on better weather days and exercise in line with government guidance is important. As a family we are trying to stay active by going for lots of walks and my children are still able to do their dance lessons online via Zoom.

Please look on the school website if you need to access support around your own wellbeing. You can also contact your child's teacher via the appropriate class email if you are concerned about your child's well-being or on our website there are links to the School Nursing team and West Locality team which is the new name for the Family Partnership Zone. Staff continue to be on playgrounds before and after school if a quick word is required, taking the necessary social distancing measures. If you need support in 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. In situations which require a more urgent response phoning the school office will be more appropriate.

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. By applying for free school meals the school also then receives additional funding for the school we can be used to help your child and others

Later this half-term, children will receive the flu vaccinations – the NHS offer letter and information went out to all families on Tuesday (with a corrected code letter on Wednesday).





Thank you for your support with the Poppy appeal this year. Some of you may have seen the very moving service at the Royal Albert Hall last weekend and the work military medical staff were doing in our hospitals. The children have explored peace and remembrance in our collective worship this last couple of weeks. The children will have taken part in acts of remembrance within their classrooms this morning. We will obviously let you know how much the school community has raised once funds can be transferred to the organisation after lockdown. While we haven't planned anything for Child in Need in school this year, I am sure many of you will get involved by donating to this worthy cause.

Next week in school we will be looking at the anti-bullying theme as it is national anti-bullying week. We are asking pupils on Monday 16th November to come to school in odd socks to raise awareness against bullying. There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or buy expensive costumes just wear odd socks that day! Mr Draper is our anti-bullying champion and lead on our strategy in school. He has organised a range of activities including an assembly and follow-up learning within the classroom.



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Learning in School

The children are enjoying lots of learning experiences within their class groups. They are also engaging in lots of exercise and opportunities to look at their social and emotional side in PHSE lessons.



Chance to Shine Cricket coaching started last week for pupils in Key Stage 2. Half a class will receive coaching before swapping over. 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 starting on Monday 23rd November.

Forest School started on Friday afternoon for William Barnes pupils for the next six weeks. They had a great time, being explorers collecting leaves and other natural materials to add to their crowns. They also took part in games and drawing their own maps.

Updated government guidance restricts extra-curricular after school clubs currently but Mr Leader is trialling a football club for Year 5/6 class each week at lunchtime starting Thursday this week. The day of this may need to vary so look for communications around this.



School staff at our weekly staff meeting looked at our plans for Christmas which may need to be adjusted depending on the guidance post the lockdown period in November. Rest assured we are looking to celebrate Christmas in the best way we can and the Christmas tree has already been organised! For those new families to our school the Christmas tree and decorating it is a big focus for our celebrations.

Mr Allan has kindly donated a Christmas tree once again this year and will obviously be selling trees in Beaminster again as he did last year.



Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you for your support with attendance this term so far and we ask you to continue to ensure your child is here every day they possibly can be, with the aim that they are here every day. We monitor children's attendance closely and will contact you in order that we can work together to improve your child's attendance, where it is not related to Covid-19. Can I also politely remind you that school starts at 8.45am and pupils need to be in their classrooms before that time. Please refer to the attendance policy on the website for more details. If you are having problems with your child attending or being late, we are here to help so please talk to your child's teacher or myself. Where children are unable to attend due to Covid-19 reasons we will provide remote learning via Microsoft Teams in line with our Remote learning policy which is now on our school website. Homework in Key Stage 2 is also posted on TEAMS to help children get practise in using this platform but we also supply paper copies.

We haven't been able to have our normal open day this year and next week are hoping to prepare a film tour of our school which prospective parents can view. If you do know any families with pre-school children in our locality please do spread the word about our school. I am very much happy to talk to parents over the phone about our school. January 15th is closing date for school applications for starting school in September 2021.

As Government guidance changes, we are adapting our risk assessment too, to reflect any changes. Staff in school are now wearing masks or visors outside of their normal teaching spaces and where social distancing is hard to maintain. We would advise parents to always have a mask with them when coming to school. All visitors who come in to the school building are asked to wear a mask. When collecting children at the end of the day, where it proves difficult to maintain 2m social distance, then wearing a mask is advised.

Thank you for continued support,

Philip Smith
Headteacher

Dates for the diary

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| Monday 2 nd November | Chance to Shine Cricket sessions for Key Stage 2 pupils starts |
| Monday 16 th November | Come to school in odd socks for Anti-bullying week |
| Friday 11 th December | Flu Vaccinations for all pupils – letter sent |
| Friday 17 th December | Last Day of Autumn term |

