



Broadwindsor Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

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“Learning and growing together”

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Headteacher: Mr Philip Smith

17.12.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a year 2020 has been for our learning community. I am so proud of all of you for sticking together and being so resilient over the constant changes we have endured since I started writing to you in March about the Coronavirus. The staff have been so appreciative of your support and positivity. The children have been amazing this term and have just got on with it. It hasn't been easy at times but staff have constantly evaluated their practice to give the children the best learning experience within the guidelines. Hopefully, the children have enjoyed the Christmas week and it has been a memorable end to the autumn term.

Filming for our Christmas play was completed on Monday and on Tuesday Mr Harris and school staff edited the film. Children have watched the play in their classes today and it was lovely to hear their comments afterwards and see each classes contributions. You can view our Christmas play via the link supplied through logging into your child's TEAMS account. Thank you to children and staff for their efforts in putting this production on. Enjoy the show!



You will also be able to view the Christmas tree assembly in the same way by logging on to your child's Microsoft Teams account. This will be added on Friday. In order to safeguard all our pupils please be careful about sharing either links and do not upload these links to social media sites.

Yesterday children had Christmas lunch and Rev Jo joined us via Microsoft Teams for a live Christmas Collective Worship. Children had a special visitor in on Thursday afternoon when Father Christmas visited our school on the back of a trailer. All the children will bring home small gifts from Father Christmas tomorrow. The Children also took part in a Santa Dash looking for clues around the school site using resources given to us via the Dorset Sports Partnership.



Needing a school place for September 2021

Closing date for school places for September 2021 is fast on the horizon (January 15th).

Please do spread the word about our school as it looks currently like we still have places for September. The website is a great place for prospective parents to look at and get a flavour of our school. If you require any further details please contact the school office.



Teaching and Learning Update

At the beginning of December in the newsletter I told you about our children taking part in assessment week. We are pleased with the children's progress and where children need support we have continued planned programmes for children to complete. We are especially pleased with children's early reading skills in younger classes and our use of Read Write Inc is continuing to have a positive impact on children's reading progress.



Our Year 2 pupils all took part in the national Phonics Screening Check which was delayed from the summer term. This is a key indicator on how children are performing in reading. I am pleased to announce all pupils passed this assessment so well done to all the children and Mrs Killick and Mrs Emmerson who have worked so hard. The school has worked hard to improve phonics scores over the last two year and working closely with the Broadcylst Teaching School in Exeter.

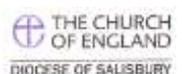
Year	Percentage of Broadwindsor Pupils achieving the standard	National figures
2020	100%	Not available
2019	93%	82%
2018	66%	83%

In January we will continue to provide a number of interventions and approaches to support pupils to catch-up and narrow gaps in learning. Mrs Kirsten Bryant will be joining our staff team to provide additional teaching capacity across the school three mornings and some afternoon time each week. Her role will include providing additional teaching capacity to teach maths in smaller year groups and provide small catch-up groups in reading and maths. The school is also using Catch-up money and contingency funds to provide additional teaching assistant hours within classrooms. In Year 6 we will also be providing children with revision guides and maths booster classes for a small group of children after school with Mr Draper.

Latest Covid-19 Update

Reminder that Broadwindsor School, like all schools, have been asked to be contactable leading up to Christmas after we break up on the 18th December as laid out in the latest government advice. Therefore if your child becomes unwell with any Covid symptoms within 48 hours of being at school and then goes on to receive a positive test please ensure you notify us on the school office email – office@broadwindsor.dorset.sch.uk. We will continue to monitor this email account beyond the end of term and news of positive tests may have implications for specific class bubbles. We would obviously hope that this will not be necessary but we must continue to be cautious and keep everyone safe and well for Christmas and beyond.

We have included a link below for the government guidance for a reminder on what the rules are for Christmas bubbles. Government guidance also gives clear advice about limiting contacts before and after Christmas. This way we will give the children the best chance of being at school for the whole of the spring term.



I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and I look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 5th January for the new term. Thank you for your kind words of support, cards and gifts - they are all very much appreciated.



Best Wishes

Philip Smith
Headteacher

Dates for the diary

Friday 18th December

Last Day of Autumn term

Monday 4th January 2021

INSET Day – school closed to pupils

Tuesday 5th January

School opens for Spring term

Links to Government guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-the-christmas-period>

And useful information from Dorset Council:

<https://news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/>

