



Broadwindsor Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

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“Learning and growing together”

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Headteacher: Mr Philip Smith

3.2.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all doing ok out there? The news of Sir Captain Tom was sad and hard to digest yesterday. The news coverage reflecting on his life showed us his remarkable legacy full of many selfless acts. I think pausing at these times to remember such people is important and helps us aspire to be generous and show acts of kindness. These acts ripple out in our community and make us all stronger and able to face what is ahead of us.

Thank you all for your efforts with supporting your child's learning during this difficult time. We appreciate all of the remote learning which you are all uploading to the TEAMS platform. Now the majority of children have their own individual channel to upload their learning to, this helps with distributing feedback on tasks and allows pupils to continue a learning dialogue with us. The children seem to be really appreciating accessing daily check-ins with their teachers and their class mates. We are also aware that there are lots of challenges to participating in these sessions including the reliability of internet connection, juggling employment and other siblings learning to consider. Please do contact us via the class email addresses if you are having any difficulties with approaching the home-learning. Over the next couple of weeks we will contact as many of you as possible to see how you are getting on and see if there is anything else you need.

This week's purple learning theme is 'solving problems positively' and was introduced in my Collective Worship which will have been sent via Parentmail earlier this week. As in previous weeks, you can send your nominations for this theme and other successes you would like to share via the [online form](#) and then we will give your child a special mention at our Praise Assembly on Thursday.



It is also Children's mental health week and we have sent you some activities via the children's home learning newsletters this week, which can support your child's mental health. On Monday we shared with the children via my assembly the activity involving painting a pebble and then placing it somewhere in your local community when you are out taking exercise.

Spreading a bit of happiness is something that our whole learning community are used to doing and is part of our Christian values too. It would be great to have a 100 of these stones out there bringing fellow walkers in our community a smile to their face. Place2Be's website also has lots of useful information including a virtual assembly on their news page and it is something I found useful exploring when thinking about my own children. [Parents and Carers - Children's Mental Health Week 2021](#)



Staff Testing

Testing of staff twice weekly continues in school and the staff are becoming more used to the routine involved around it. Staff who get a positive test result will need to self-isolate and also seek a laboratory test to validate the result. We will also consult with Public Health Dorset to seek their advice on which pupils will need to isolate from those who are attending school.



Keeping Active

Last chance to submit entries for the Virtual Cross Country event - please time your child covering 1000 metres and email their time into the school office by Friday 5th February. Children from Year 1 – 6 are eligible to be included. Just like in our real cross country events we need to have four pupils to take part to make a virtual team.



Chance to Shine cricket coaching session on Zoom continues on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm. ([Chance to Shine Live](#)). These sessions are suitable for all ages and are recorded and can be found on Youtube as well so that you can participate at different times to suit your family.

Governor message

The Governors would like to acknowledge all the hard work, during these difficult times, by both staff and families in supporting the development and education of the children at Broadwindsor School. Covid restrictions are placing numerous challenges on everyone. We would like to reassure you that the Governors are meeting with the Headteacher and staff more frequently through Teams to give support where needed. Even though we are not a visible presence in the school at this time we are available should you need to make contact via the school office on 01308 868376 or by e mail office@broadwindsor.dorset.sch.uk

Stay at home advice continues

Dorset Council continues to publish its weekly newsletter online each Friday and this week the number of cases, while still high, is beginning to come down. Hopefully this means we are beginning to turn a corner. But with rates only just starting to come down, we all need to continue to follow the advice of staying at home as much as possible so that we can bring infection rates right down. With nearly 10 million people now vaccinated, we need to hold on to this positivity.

The Government announced last week that school closure for most pupils in England has been extended to at least the 8th March and therefore remote learning will continue for at least the first two weeks after half-term. Schools continue to be asked to stay open for those vulnerable pupils and for critical workers when they cannot be looked after at home.

Taking care of yourselves

Many of the resources available in the previous lockdowns and school closure are still available on our school website [Mental Health & Wellbeing](#) page. Please be kind to yourselves too and you can only do what you can do with the home-learning. We can always advise you on what things to focus on if you are finding it unmanageable. The school can also help signpost any support you may need including emotional and financial support. 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.

Please keep in contact with us all and on behalf of all the staff at Broadwindsor 'Stay safe and positive'. Once again thank you - we all think you are doing an amazing job!

Phil Smith
Headteacher

Dates for Diary

Monday 15th – Friday 19th February Half-term holiday

