



# BROAD CHALKE C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Amanda Brockway

Chair of Governors: Mrs Louise Hall



31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

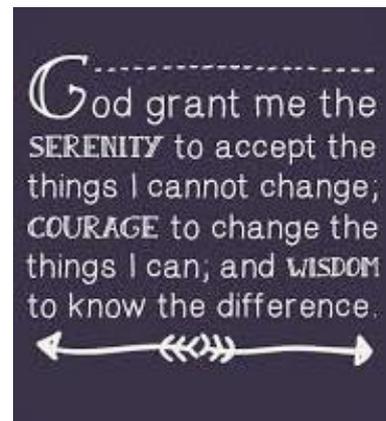
Dear Parents / Carers

I hope that wherever you are, you are coping as well as you can. I know some of you will still be at work, some working from home, some furloughed, some unsure about the future of your employment and some not able to work at all. Some of you I know will be volunteering in your community.

I know that you are all absolutely trying your best to keep on top of the home learning for your children. Some people are probably trying to do all of this and look after their immediate and extended families too. Please can I stress again that your well-being and the well-being of your children is more important than anything else.

School staff are working hard to help everyone, especially the most vulnerable children and the children of our critical workers. Whatever you are doing in these strange times please know that we are still a school community and that we still care deeply about all of our families.

These are trying times, but there are also many examples of people helping one another. We will get through this but we have to change our mind set and try to take one day at a time and maybe think about the words of what is often called the serenity prayer attributed to Dr Reinhold Neibuhr.



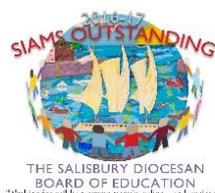
## Rainbows in the windows



Over the last week there have been many changes, many difficult to adjust to, especially not being able to see dearly loved family members and friends. You may have seen on social media that children have been putting pictures of rainbows in their windows. The idea is to spread joy to those who walk past and, by carrying out this small act, it has also brought a symbol of unity to many communities, who are all trying to adjust to a new normal. If you do manage to go for a walk, whilst keeping social distance, perhaps you could look out for rainbows in the windows and see how many you can count or get your children to create and display their own beautiful rainbow pictures.

## Council hub set-up to support vulnerable people during COVID-19

The council has set up a dedicated hub to take phone calls from people who need support during the ongoing COVID-19 situation. The Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub is available to anyone who is struggling during this difficult time, and the team can signpost to where additional help is available in the local area – with hundreds of community groups set up across the county providing invaluable assistance. They can also support with deliveries of food and other essentials. People can get in touch with the hub by calling 0300 003 4576 and it's available from 8am-8pm Monday-Friday and 10am-4pm Saturday and Sunday or via email at [wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk)



## Safeguarding update

The government has advised that all schools make sure their safeguarding and child protection arrangements are up to date considering the current pandemic. To support with this, we have a **COVID-19 safeguarding statement** (attached) which we will publish on our website to comply with this advice.

## Free School Meals

Children eligible for free school meals will benefit from a national voucher scheme allowing them to continue to access meals whilst they stay at home. Schools will shortly provide every eligible child with a weekly shopping voucher worth £15 to spend at supermarkets while schools are closed due to coronavirus.

Parents will receive the voucher through their child's school, which can then be redeemed online via a code and used at supermarkets. Today (Tuesday 31 March) schools should be emailed by the Department for Education's chosen supplier, Edenred. Schools will then be able to order vouchers individually online and have a code sent via email to each family. The family can then show the code on their phone at their chosen supermarket.

The vouchers can be spent on food at a range of shops including Sainsbury's, Tesco, Asda, Morrisons, Waitrose and M&S, with the Department working to get more shops to join the scheme as soon as possible. This information was only released to schools today and I am pleased that it gives parents more choice than just one supermarket. Unfortunately this scheme is term time only so there will not be any vouchers issued for the Easter holidays or any other school holidays. We will be in touch with the relevant families as soon as we have more information.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Amanda Brockway  
Headteacher

