



BROAD CHALKE C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newtown, Broad Chalke, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 5DS.

Tel: 01722 780212

e-mail: admin@broadchalke.wilts.sch.uk website: www.broadchalke.wilts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Amanda Brockway

Chair of Governors: Mrs Louise Hall



20th April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Summer Term

It's very odd to be starting the summer term in these strange times under lockdown. Schools everywhere continue to do amazing work, and will continue to do so as long as is needed. There has been unhelpful speculation about how soon schools will become fully open again. I know no more than anyone else, but I can't see how it will be anytime soon apart from being open for the children of keyworkers. Our school has remained open in this respect over most of the Easter holidays and I am very grateful to the staff for their continued support.

Covid-19 Advice and support for parents booklet

Wiltshire has produced the booklet (attached) which is a great aid for parents on how to help children cope with thinking about Covid-19. Please also see these links on their website for further support:
<https://www.wiltshirehealthyschools.org/new-mental-health-resources-and-covid-19-support-materials/>
<https://www.onyourmind.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

Child Protection or any other concerns

We are here if you need us, if you have any child protection concerns or any other concerns. For example, it's a sad fact that during lockdown there is an increase in domestic abuse which impacts on children. There are staff in school every day and always a senior leader so either myself, Mr Howell or Mrs Moriarty will be available although not necessarily in the office. If you need to talk to us about **anything** please send an email in the first instance to admin@broadchalke.wilts.sch.uk and request a call back so that you can talk in confidence.

Free School Meals

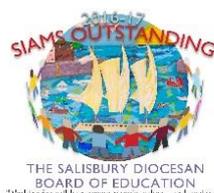
It has been a frustrating time for those in receipt of free school meals (not the universal infant free school meals). The voucher scheme through Edenred is a great idea but the system has been completely overwhelmed. I'm so sorry that parents have been inconvenienced and let down by delays in the system that were beyond our control. Hopefully it is all sorted out now but please can parents keep checking their junk/spam folder as vouchers *should* be delivered weekly (on Mondays hopefully!) and have a 30 day deadline.

Parents and carers urged not to put off seeking medical help

Parents and carers are being advised not to let worries about coronavirus, delay them from seeking medical help for other issues. Health leaders are offering reassurance that while services remain busy, parents should not think twice about using urgent and emergency healthcare services when their child becomes ill or has a serious accident. The advice is extended to adults, particularly those who are elderly, who may be in need of urgent medical attention. Accidents still happen and children still become ill – just as they did before the coronavirus outbreak.

Home Learning

Our priority is the well-being of our children and parents but some degree of home learning is desirable hopefully without too much conflict! As it is the start of a new term, my advice would be to try to go back to some sort of daily routine or time-table so that there is a structure to the day. The teachers love to see photos of what the children are doing and how they are responding to the various



challenges set. The BBC have today launched their Bitesize Daily lessons today on Red Button, BBC iPlayer and BBC Bitesize online. Hopefully this will provide learning in a way which engages the children without it even feeling like school work! We are all aware that it is no easy task for parents to manage home learning on top of all the other demands on their time. A huge thank you to all of the parents for juggling your time; all of your efforts are hugely appreciated.

We are also aware that the children might need some more exercise books so we are liaising with the different teachers to organise for more blank exercise books to be made available as different year groups need different books. Please bear with us whilst we get this organised and we will let you know when they are ready and available for collection, from a safe distance of course and from outside of the school.

The children are inevitably going to miss out on aspects of their education, socialising with their friends and all the lovely things which we do at school particularly in the summer term and that makes me, the other staff and I'm sure the children too, feel quite sad. But this is also a wonderful opportunity for children to learn in many different ways and they will learn so many different life skills.

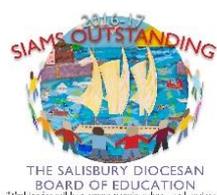
- They will probably grow in empathy, be more creative and more able to entertain themselves.
- Perhaps they will develop a love of reading and learn to express themselves in writing.
- They can learn to appreciate the simple things, like their own gardens or sitting near a window and looking at the shapes of clouds or even the noise of the rain.
- Maybe they will really notice the birds and the emergence of all the different flowers.
- Possibly they will learn to cook, make shopping lists, organize their possessions, learn to use the washing machine, do the washing up or load and unload the dishwasher.
- Perhaps they will learn to live with less being readily available and the true value of things.
- Potentially they will learn the value of eating together as a family and finding the good to share in the small delights of the everyday through family connections even with those family members which they can't see face to face at the moment.
- Hopefully they will place great value on our NHS, our teachers and other educational professionals, other public servants and the essential support workers like delivery drivers, supermarket staff and health care workers, just to name a few of the millions taking care of us.

Undoubtedly there will be a benefit to experiencing a slower pace and a simpler life and to truly learn what really matters in this life.

Thank you team Broad Chalke!

I would like to give a special thank you to the wonderful team of staff we have at Broad Chalke School. They are always dedicated, innovative and resilient but even more so during the last four weeks. As a team we have bonded like never before, despite the physical distance between us. The staff have all risen to respond at speed to the Government's call for a change in how they teach or carry out their other job roles, where carrying on is safe for that particular individual. They have shown selflessness and a willingness to go above and beyond knowing that our work is essential at this time of national crisis. We have tried to steer a clear course through what have been confusing and frustrating times. School staff who are still working in school have also had to overcome a degree of anxiety by not being able to 'stay at home' but those who are able to do so have done this without complaint because they want to play their part in what is a national effort. Those staff who are vulnerable have, I know, found it frustrating to accept that they must stay at home but that is their contribution and we value it.

I very much hope that the daily email from teachers with home learning tasks is keeping a rapport going with the parents and pupils. We have a quite exceptional team of people who support one another and serve our families with dedication and compassion. Our school aim is 'to serve one another in love' and I know that our staff will continue to serve in the difficult months ahead.



I would also like to thank the governors for their support through this challenging time and for offering their knowledge and advice. We had our first governors meeting via ZOOM last week. I know that as a community we will get through the current crisis and come out stronger and wiser at the end.

A letter from our team vicars

Our clergy have also written a short newsletter to the schools in the Chalke Valley.

To the staff, children and parents of Broad Chalke, Coombe Bissett and Longford Schools

***'I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.'* Ephesians 1:16**

We, your local vicars, echo the bible verse above. We are so thankful to the staff at our three schools for the way they have responded to the present crisis. We are grateful to parents who have found themselves in an almost impossible position; trying to parent, teach, work and keep their little ones safe and at home. We also think of the children, we do miss them and long to be back doing Collective Worship. At this strange and trying time, we are praying for you all. We pray for peace upon your households and resilience for young and old alike.

Until we can physically meet again take care, stay safe and well, and we'll see you at the school gate, hopefully someone time soon.

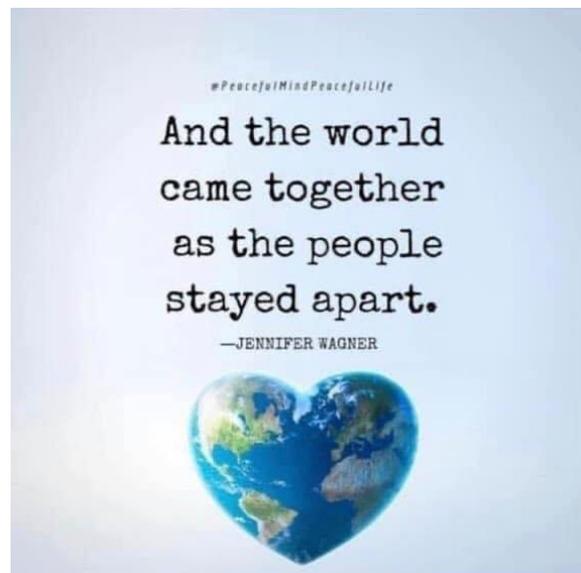
From Reverend Catherine, Reverend Anna Claar, Reverend Roger and Canon Jenny (and Emily our administrator)

Stay safe and stay in touch

I echo those sentiments and miss seeing everyone very much. However, we must remain positive and there is much that we can learn from this experience and it may well instigate changes as to how we use our resources, work together and educate our children in the future.

Please do stay in touch with us in school ideally by email; we can still be a community together even though we must stay apart.

Please take care everyone and I hope that you and your families are all able to stay safe and well.



Yours sincerely,

Mrs Amanda Brockway
Headteacher

