



BROAD CHALKE C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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1st May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Goodbye April! Hello May!

We start another month, living through these strangest of times. Despite us all trying to make the best of it, for many of us it is challenging and at times it's emotional. The priority as ever, is to please take care of yourselves and let love shine a light into the darker days. It's reassuring to hear that the lockdown measures are having the desired effect but we all know we have a long journey back to some sort of normality.

Home Learning

Thank you again for all that you're doing to support your children's well-being and education. Hopefully the new BBC TV resources and are helping to bridge some gaps as the BBC have produced some great online lessons for different ages with really engaging presenters. I see all of the teachers' planning by email and am in awe of how hard they are working to adapt their planning and find appropriate tasks. Please do keep in touch with your child's class teacher even if it's just a quick email. We want to know that you're all ok and that the children are engaging as much as is possible. It was so nice to see some of you when you called by at school to pick up new exercises books as some children have already filled their books!

Look after yourselves

Wiltshire Council have produced a booklet attached called 'Looking after yourself, looking after your children' which has some good practical ideas and links (attached).

Poetry competition

The closing date to send your child's video to your child's class teacher is today 1st May. We will announce the winners soon but again present prizes and certificates when we return to school.

Easter Reading Bingo challenge

The Reading Bingo challenge competition has now closed. The teachers were incredibly impressed by the entries so very well done! All children who entered will receive a certificate when we return to school. The winners were children who managed a full house on their Bingo card. These children are:

Reception: Huckleberry Gronow-Downing

Year 1 Millie Agha and Pip Grover

Year 2 Joshua Bevan and Monty Gronow-Downing

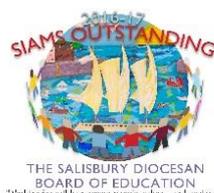
Year 3 Isabel Green

Year 4 Xavier Sibley and Carla Pieteron

Year 5 Ashton Bonderoff and Bluebell Gronow-Downing

Pre-school siblings

We are all acutely aware that transition for children at all stages is going to be challenging. We have got a large number of siblings starting with us in September! We want to support the learning and skills of the three and four-year-old siblings so here are some home learning links and activities for the under-fives that parents may want to use with their children. The BBC's Hungry Little Minds platform has some great ideas which they will be developing over the coming weeks and months and the BBC's Tiny Happy People is also a great resource. There are many simple ways to help children learn and it does not have to feel like 'learning'. Having everyday conversations, make-believe play and reading together all make a big difference to children's development.



Bank Holiday Friday 8th May

As Friday 8th May is a bank holiday, specifically this year to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day, the teachers will not be setting normal home learning tasks. We thought you might all appreciate a break! However, they may send through some VE Day related task as an optional activity. There is also a VE Day pack compiled by Wiltshire Council (attached).

Free School Meals

Aldi and McColl's have joined the list of supermarkets that will redeem vouchers secured through the free school meals national voucher scheme. Supermarkets available also include Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose, M&S, Asda and Morrisons.

Good news stories



John from Y1 has been busy making Lego models as part of the 2.6 challenge to raise money for charity (if you haven't heard of it, it's inspired by the London marathon being cancelled and people were encouraged to do a challenge involving 2.6 or 26 and donate to charity). John chose to make 26 Lego vehicles and raised £15 for FOBS.

Sophie from Y6 has been showing great community spirit delivering flowers, home-made cards and small food deliveries to the elderly in her village.



Mrs Newman has been very busy making face masks for colleagues, friends and families for a small donation to FOBS. Some may still be available in Chalke Valley Stores.

Values

Our special value this term is **FRIENDSHIP** which I thought was rather appropriate! It's so important that friendships and social contact in a different form are maintained. Some parents are organising video calls to make sure that children see one another for a chat which is a lovely idea. Each week in normal school times we enlarge on how the value of the term fits into our lives; how it can help us to develop ourselves and I find Bible stories to go with the theme. If you would like to use these ideas for a story time, these are some of the themes and stories which we would have been using this term with some YouTube links.

- **Friends stick together. Bible story** – David and Jonathan remained friends despite David being put in great danger by King Saul, Jonathan's father.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSgqkh0bFZA>
- **Friends encourage one another. Bible story** – Ruth and Naomi. Naomi refused to leave Ruth's side even when Ruth decided to return to her home country.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIeRJmLDeQ0>

- **Friends support one another. Bible story** – The Paralyse Man. Friends supported a man and got the attention of Jesus by lowering their friend down through the roof of a house which Jesus was visiting. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0LqHYkGU4Zg>
- **Friends listen to one another. Bible story** - Mary, Martha and Jesus. Mary listens carefully to what Jesus is saying whilst Martha is busy doing tasks and feeling cross with her sister for not helping but Jesus reminds Martha about what is most important. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jiB6ySr5PNI>
- **Friends make time for one another. Bible story** – The Good Samaritan. The well-known story told in response to the question...who is my neighbour. The answer being everyone is your neighbour and to love and serve one another as Jesus loves and serves us. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dr0Vn5QBMtM>

Support for the keyworkers

I thought parents might like to see this lovely rainbow picture made by staff and children who were at school in the sunshine last week, created to show support for the keyworkers.



My 7 year old grandson was asked to describe, for a journal, what it was like living through these times. His answer was... 'it's like the world is crumbling'. I'm sure that many of us can relate to that. For many, their jobs and their businesses have either temporarily or even permanently gone and many are affected by the loss of someone they know or required to stay at home or not see our loved ones. The stability and certainty that we had thought we had in our lives has gone in all sorts of ways. Yet, sometimes things have to fall apart or 'crumble' before they can fall together again, hopefully in some ways better than before. We will certainly all appreciate many things which we may have taken for granted.

Have hope, have trust and have faith in whatever you choose to believe in. Despite the very real difficulties, tragedies and heartache, we will overcome this.

Remember that although this virus is highly contagious, so are empathy, kindness and positivity!

Yours sincerely,

A.S. Brockway

Mrs Amanda Brockway
Headteacher

