



# BROAD CHALKE C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Amanda Brockway

Chair of Governors: Mrs Louise Hall



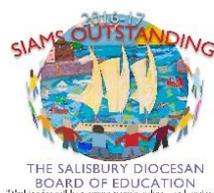
11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you're all keeping safe and well. In some ways I think it's getting easier, as we get used to how things have to be. However, the journey towards getting back to normal, particularly in schools, is daunting. The end of lockdown can't happen suddenly; it has to be a gradual process.

Last night we had the announcement from the Prime Minister that Primary schools in England MAY BE able to reopen from 1 June at the EARLIEST. Any reopening would be CONDITIONAL on the R rate and number of new infections staying LOW (low is still to be defined). Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 MIGHT be able to return IN STAGES.

At this stage there are more questions than answers from this statement. As a Headteacher, my first priority always has to be safety for everyone – children, parents and the staff working in school. Safety comes before learning. In fact my mantra has always been safety, happiness then learning because children don't learn unless they are safe and happy. As we only had the announcement from the government yesterday, we need time to plan and prepare. For now, **we remain as we are** and await further guidance from the government and advice from the Local Authority. There is much which needs to be discussed with staff and governors. In the meantime, let's all do our best to keep positive and keep smiling! I've managed to get Broad Chalke school staff to virtually come together to give everyone a positive message during this challenging time and it seems more timely than ever! Hello from Broad Chalke Primary School! Remember...Learning! Caring! Growing! Sharing! Keep smiling! Stay safe! We will meet again!



Broad Chalke School say...Stay at home! Protect the NHS! Save Lives! Strong communities supporting one another! We will beat this!



My thanks, as ever, to our wonderful team of staff who have done a fantastic job both in school and working from home, especially providing daily home learning tasks and email and telephone contact with parents. I know how hard it can be for parents to manage the home learning. There is so much more to teaching than delivering information to willing and sometimes not so willing recipients! Please do keep in touch with us. Staff morale is really boosted when they receive positive messages from home and see photographs of some of the home learning.

The school has of course remained open to the children of keyworkers, including over the Easter holiday when we had the predicted 'peak' and the 3 bank holidays. We have made it as safe as we can for a small number of children and staff to continue to be in school. We've done this by having 2m between desks, named and labelled equipment, strict hygiene and hand washing and as much time outside as possible to name just a few from a long list of measures.

Children, mercifully, seem to be generally safe, asymptomatic and not generally the risk group. The risk group are of course the staff, many of whom are older than the parents and some of whom have health conditions and there is also a risk to parents, particularly those with health conditions and their wider family groups. The challenge going forward is how to balance getting back to normal without putting lives at risk.

Thank you for all of your hard work – I have no doubt that you will continue to do your very best for the children, just as you have been doing for the last 7 weeks and working together we will make the gradual transition out of lockdown work. More information will follow when I have had more details and more advice.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Amanda Brockway  
Headteacher

