



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



18th May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I'm sure many of you will be wondering what is happening as regards the wider opening of schools for YR, Y1 and Y6. A newsletter will be coming as soon as possible explaining our plans. Please understand how incredibly challenging the time scale is for Headteachers to put plans in place in a way which has the support of governors, the involvement of teachers and puts your child's safety and well-being at the very centre along with the safety of staff and parents.

On Thursday 7th May 2020, the Department for Education (DfE) wrote on its blog, in response to stories in the media that 'our position remains clear that no date has been set for the reopening of schools to all pupils'. Just 3 days later, in his announcement on Sunday 10th May, the Prime Minister said that schools would open for more children from 1st June 2020 if conditions were met based on scientific evidence. That has since morphed into probably the 1st June; then it should be 1st June.

Amongst the staff and governors of Broad Chalke School there is **a will to make this work**. We fully appreciate the impact of the lockdown on parents and children. I have been working on our plans since the announcement was made on 10th May but additional major pieces of guidance from the government keep being released, usually in the evening and even overnight, often once school leaders have given massive time and energy to consider and, sometimes, send out their plans to parents. There has been an unbelievable amount of energy, innovation and care from those of us in education, poured into keeping children (and families) supported with their learning, and their well-being, often at personal cost to their own mental and physical health. This is even more so as we work out how to manage the return to school.

My newsletter outlining our plans is written and almost ready to go except that today I have received a 50 page risk assessment from Wiltshire Local Authority. I'm sure you can appreciate that this is a very important piece of information to work through and check that we are doing everything we can, in line with government guidance, to keep everybody as safe as we can. I hope you can understand that I do not want to send out our plans until I have had time to check that they are compatible with this risk assessment. I can only base my plan on the information I have at the time; so the plan will reflect our current understanding of the national and local guidance and this may change over time as it is going to be a phased approach.

I have also taken the decision, with regret, that we **cannot offer child care to key workers on the bank holiday on Monday 25th May** simply because we have to make sure that we have time to make the school what is being described by the government as 'COVID secure'. This will mean a number of adults being on site and the moving of furniture and other measures is not going to be compatible with child care on site. We will offer child care for the rest of the half-term week but please can I stress to the parents who are key workers to only use this facility if they have absolutely no other choice. The staff have continued to work through every school and bank holiday so far and they need some sort of break although planning for the return will inevitably impact on some of that time.

The safety and well-being of your children is, and will continue to be, at the heart of every decision. I will communicate with you as soon as I can about our plans regarding the wider opening of the school, hopefully in the earlier part of this week.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Amanda Brockway
Headteacher

