



# BROAD CHALKE C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Amanda Brockway

Chair of Governors: Mrs Louise Hall



13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## Dear Parents / Carers

What a school year it has been, we are all looking forward to the summer break and a return to something near normality in September!

### Back to School in September Plan

Now that the guidance has been published, I can tell you about our plans for September. We are all delighted that the guidance gives us flexibility to make the road to recovery far more straightforward than it has been over the past 4 months. Has it really only been 4 months? It feels so much longer! Please read this newsletter carefully as it contains important information about our end of term and return to school plans.

**Hygiene** - Our best defence against COVID19 remains **hand hygiene** and a 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. Please can parents reinforce this message over the summer along with an awareness of other hygienic measures like reminding children not to put fingers in mouths and up noses, to flush the toilet and to wash hands after using the toilet.

**Class Bubbles** - From September, the idea is that children mainly mix in school within their bubbles of 30. We have got used to working in this way in the summer term with bubbles of 15 for the key worker groups, YR, Y1 and Y6. Bubbles are not really a precaution in the same way that hand washing or cleaning are. We are well aware that sibling contact crosses bubbles. The idea of the bubble is a way to minimise and manage a swift and efficient shutdown in response to an outbreak. Public Health would guide us about what to do and which bubbles to shut down in the event of this happening. The children will be in their classroom bubble of 30 for lessons and will only be able to play with children in their own class at playtimes and lunchtimes. We will have separate play areas to help the children to keep in their bubbles. This does mean that we will not be able to let classes mix, or meet as a whole school for events or collective worship until the guidance changes.

**Staff** - Although the children will be in class bubbles, the guidance says that staff can move between bubbles, but they need to maintain their distance from the children where possible. Staff movement is important in order for us to teach the whole curriculum and to be able to use our teaching assistants and midday supervisors across the school.

**Getting to school** - The local authority has asked schools to encourage parents to make other arrangements for travel to/from school other than school transport if possible. Also, if possible, please can parents and children walk or cycle to school to avoid congestion in the car park. If you have to drive, and I completely understand that many families have no option, please park at the sports centre if you can and enjoy a short walk to school.

**Buses** - Our youngest pupils do find it quite daunting to travel to school by bus so if your child is in YR / Y1 please bear this in mind and avoid it if you can. On buses, children can sit near other children from their class bubbles. In the mornings, please can parents help to ensure that older children sit near the back and the youngest children near the front as this will help with keeping children in their bubbles. There is no requirement for there to be social distancing on dedicated home/ school transport and no face masks are required.



**Early Birds** - The government recognises that schools will need to build up any before school provision over time and although bubbles might mix the advice is that this is acceptable if it is a small consistent group. Therefore, we are intending to run Early Birds. However, sessions will need to be **pre-booked** and places will be limited. This also means that there will be one flat price which will be **£2.50 per session** for the 8am – 9am childcare regardless of what time the children arrive. This is still less than many other schools charge. Parents will need to book the week before via ParentPay. We will no longer be able to accept children turning up on the day with no pre-booking. Parents can book for a term in advance and we will inform you when the system is live.

**School Uniform** - Children should wear school uniform and ideally this should be washed daily. However, we are prepared to be flexible such as children wearing non branded sweatshirts and wearing trainers as we understand that some families may have difficulty obtaining uniform. Once PE days are known, it would help if children wore their PE kit to school for the day.

**What to bring to school** - Schools are being advised to keep the number of things brought into school to a minimum. However, book bags (please only attach one key ring item), lunch boxes, drinks bottles, snacks and coats are ok to bring in. Please do not send in pencil cases as an easy to clean box of equipment per child will be provided.

**Start and End Times** - We are not going to stagger start and end times as we think this is not necessary on our school site as fortunately we have classrooms with doors to the outside and staggering start/end times can be very inconvenient for parents. Instead of the children lining up on the playground, they will need to wait then line up outside of their classroom doors with social distancing. Parents should not let their children play with children from other year groups whilst they are waiting. **Classroom doors will open at 8:50am.**

**Social Distancing for parents** - Please can parents keep in mind that social distancing between adults should be respected on the school site. Therefore, please keep at least 1m away from other parents when dropping off / collecting your children. Also, please can I remind you that in order to reduce the number of people on site we ask that only one parent/carer accompanies their child / children to school. We are also asking parents not to come into school unless absolutely necessary.

**Lunches** - The school kitchen will resume a full service. We have always staggered the sittings in the hall so this will continue although older children may have to eat in classrooms. This is something which we will need to work out once the children are back in September and we hope to have new dining furniture which will also help with seating arrangements. Please book lunches on ParentPay, we will advise you when this is available.

**Music Lessons** – The paid for music lessons can re-commence but the music teachers may have to reduce group size, only teach children together from the same class bubble and keep their distance from pupils. We will let parents know once we know what is on offer so please wait for us to inform you, some information has already gone out.

**Collective Worship** - Our value this week is perseverance. Please do have a look at our weekly online worship newsletter to think about the weekly value with your children or to watch the short video. There are also follow up ideas to reflect on the value. In September, whole school collective worship will still not be possible but collective worship will happen in each class bubble sometimes planned and led by the children.

**After school clubs** - The government recognises that schools will need to build up their after school provision over time and although bubbles might mix the advice is that this is acceptable if it is a small consistent group. The paid for clubs will continue if the people who run these clubs wish to do so, we are in the process of contacting them. They may limit their numbers and the year groups involved



which may mean a slight increase in price. We will let parents know once we know what is on offer so please wait for us to inform you. The free teacher run clubs will not run in Autumn term 1 as teachers need to concentrate their efforts on making the statutory curriculum work and adapting to meet the needs of the children. I'm sure parents will understand that this must be their priority.

**Class Trips and Residential** - The guidance allows schools to make school day trips but not yet residential trips. However, we have made a provisional booking for our Y5 residential trip normally held in October to be held instead in March 2021 and for our Y6 residential trip to be held in May 2021 – fingers crossed!

**Ice creams** – On **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July** an ice cream van will be parked at the school not as a fundraiser but simply as treat for the children should you choose to buy your child an ice cream. The ice cream van aims to be with us and ready for parents from 2.15pm. Please remember to bring money or cards and to queue with social distancing. With our staggered finish times at 2.30, 2.45 and 3.15 the queues should not be too long.

**End of term** - Children in YR, Y1, Y6 and the key worker groups finish term on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July**. Children in Y2 and Y4 have their transition day on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July from 9.30 – 3.15**. Children in Y3 and Y5 have their transition day on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July from 9.30 – 3.15**.

### TD Days

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** remains a TD day and an important time for teachers to complete a handover about each child to aid transition in September.

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September** is also a TD day for child protection training and to prepare classrooms once again for classes of 30.

**Staying safe and being a good friend online** - Children and young people have spent much more time on devices than ever before during lockdown, so as we approach the summer holidays, here is some information about staying safe online. There is a handy flyer to help parents at [toptipscorona.lgfl.net](http://toptipscorona.lgfl.net) which you may want to print out and keep. Please do not worry too much about screen time - think instead about screen quality, balance and mental health.

It is really important that children get the opportunity to chat to friends, so it's great to hear that many of them have been chatting online during lockdown. We are sure that this will continue over the summer, so please help us reinforce some key messages about appropriate behaviour to keep everyone safe and happy. Please remind your children never to share scary or rude images, even to complain about them. If they do see something that worries them or that might be wrong, all they need to do is ask for help from a trusted adult. They could talk to you or they may feel more comfortable talking anonymously to Childline. If you or they are concerned about an adult's behaviour towards a child online, report them to [CEOP](http://CEOP). And as a parent, you can also contact the NSPCC - O2 advice line on 0808 800 5002.

### Finally

What a roller coaster of a summer term it has been! My heartfelt thanks to everyone in our school community for your support during what has been a challenging time. Yet I believe, that as a school community, being apart has also brought us closer together.

Broad Chalke School is a very special place and I have felt this more than ever over these past 4 months. Thank you to all the staff, parents, governors and of course the children who are such a credit to their parents. I hope that you all have a lovely summer! We look forward to a fresh start on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September!**

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Amanda Brockway  
Headteacher

