



BROAD CHALKE C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Amanda Brockway

Chair of Governors: Mrs Louise Hall



7th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

New term, new start

The beginning of the new term has gone well, particularly considering the many new procedures in place for the safety of everybody and considering that so many of the children have been out of school since March. We have had to make some significant adjustments but everybody is responding well and our children new to Reception class don't know any different and are all being amazing! The children were so happy to see one another again and have been busy catching up. The sound of laughter at playtimes and seeing the children enjoying one another's company is very precious.

Car Park

The car park was very busy for the first two days but this does seem to be easing as entry to the school via all the classroom doors gets quicker. Please can parents remember to stand at the markers in order to socially distance from one another and to keep their distance from staff.

Hand Washing / Hand Sanitiser

All children have to either have hand sanitiser applied which must be at least 60% alcohol or wash their hands. We know that this can cause sore hands for children and adults but clean hands are essential. Please do not send in your own soap or hand sanitiser but your child may bring their own hand cream to prevent skin from becoming dry and cracked.

Eyesight and Hearing Checks

School nursing service has asked schools to remind parents that all children should have an annual optician check and if there are concerns about their child's hearing then they need to visit their GP. It is not yet clear if the routine tests will take place in school so the onus is on parents to get their children's eyesight and hearing checked if there are any concerns.

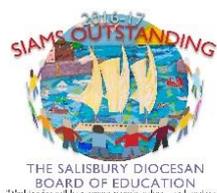
Sports Centre Field

Chalke Valley Sports Centre report some problems with stones on the playing field that are not only a danger when sport is being played but also when the mowers are cutting as the stones can fly out the back at high velocity, so an obvious danger. There is no suggestion that this is a problem connected solely with children from our school but I have been asked to assist in getting the message out to the children and parents just in case. There have been occasions when small piles of stones have been moved from the car park onto the field and then left. The Sports Centre intend to put some signage up to draw attention to what might not be an obvious danger if people do not appreciate the consequences of kicking/throwing a stone onto the grass area.

Covid 19 Symptoms

The symptoms to look out for remain:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste



It is of course normal for children to get temperatures and coughs, particularly as we go into the winter months. However, children with Covid19 symptoms (as listed above), need to stay away from school until a negative test result is obtained.

We have already had several children, and their families, who have needed to book and have Covid tests and so far, thankfully, all have had negative results.

The latest guidance is that a **child needs to have been clear of a temperature for 48 hours** before they return to school as well as having had a negative Covid test result.

Please remember:

Less mixing = less contacts = less transmission if there is a positive case = less impact on all of your contacts.

Please can parents remember to socially distance when on the school site at drop off and collection times. **This is important because of contact tracing.**

Definitions

Contact

1. Direct close contacts: Face to face contact with a case for any length of time within 1m eg being coughed on, a face to face conversation, unprotected physical contact (skin to skin) This includes exposure within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer.
2. Proximity contacts: Extended close contact (within 2m for more than 15 minutes) with a case.
3. Travelled in a small vehicle with a case. (This is why lift sharing should be avoided at this time).

If you feel well but someone you live with tests positive or you've been traced as a contact of someone who tested positive you must still self-isolate. Follow the guidance on 14 days self-isolation.

If you've had a negative test result and you're not a contact of a positive case you may return to work / school if you've not had a fever for 48 hours and feel well. Talk to your employer / child's school first.

If we do have a positive case then we will be directed by Public Health as to what happens next but it is likely that the class/group in close contact with the case need to be sent home to self-isolate for 14 days. The household of the wider group do not need to isolate unless the contact subsequently develops symptoms. The Health Protection Team would help us to identify contacts who need to isolate.

We all need to do what we can to limit our contacts which is why we have the class bubbles and why sadly we can not have parents in school at present unless it is an essential meeting.

We are all thankful to be back together in school and looking forward to the term ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Amanda Brockway
Headteacher

