



BROAD CHALKE C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Amanda Brockway

Chair of Governors: Mrs Louise Hall



22nd September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Settling in

The children continue to settle in well and the new arrangements for morning drop off and afternoon pick up are working well. I am so proud of the children for how well they have responded to the changes such as only playing with children from their own classes and sitting in rows in classrooms, apart from Reception class who need and enjoy a more play based environment.

Covid 19 Symptoms

The symptoms to look out for remain:

- **A high temperature** –feel hot to touch on their chest or back. A high temperature is 38 degrees or more.
- **A new, continuous cough** – it has been helpful to have this defined as coughing a lot for more than an hour; or 3 or more episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough it may be worse than usual).
- **A loss of, or change to, sense of smell or taste**

Our best defence from an outbreak in school is if parents keep children at home if they or anyone else in the family are displaying suspected symptoms and to only return once the person with symptoms has had a negative test result.

Please make sure you inform the school office if anyone in your immediate family is getting a test as the whole family need to self-isolate and we need to record this.

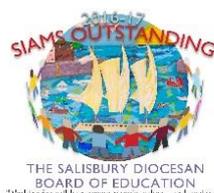
Please also remember that a **child needs to have been clear of a temperature for 48 hours** before they return to school as well as having had a negative Covid test result.

We also have the normal 48 hours clear rule for sickness and diarrhoea.

Masks for parents and meetings

So far, I have not insisted on parents wearing masks when on the school site – including outside. Some schools are insisting on this but so long as our parents continue to social distance from one another I would like to think we could continue to be ‘mask free’ when outside although parents are of course free to wear a mask if they choose. **However, if you need to step into our reception area, please wear a mask.**

In order to protect our staff and limit the amount of contacts they have in school, we are limiting meetings with parents in school to those meetings which are absolutely essential. Before requesting a face to face meeting, please consider if it is absolutely essential. Rest assured that we will be contacting you if there is an issue and most conversations can be had over the telephone. If you do need to attend a meeting in school, please wear a mask.



We are investigating how to hold whole school parent teacher meetings remotely, as to hold these meetings as we would do normally presents huge challenges for cleaning the school ready for the pupils the next day. Our priority has to be having a clean school, ready and open for pupils so a remote video conferencing system would appear to be the way ahead. I will be in touch with more details once we have carried out some trials. These meetings do not normally take place until the 2nd week back after half term so we have plenty of time to work out the best way forward.

Birthday cakes

I know it's a shame, but please do not send in home-made birthday cakes at the moment to be shared with the class. We can only accept cakes which are individually wrapped, shop bought cakes or individual packets of sweets are another alternative. Please don't feel that you have to send in anything at all though!

We have to do all that we can to reduce touching items touched by other people. We are also not handing out party invites in school, please use a digital alternative such as Classlist or What's App to contact people to make out of school arrangements.

Remote Learning

If your child is absent due to Covid related reasons but feel well in themselves, the school office will email the work for the week, once the teachers have sent it to the school office. This is a new system for us so please bear with us as we get it up and running. With younger children in particular, the resources are not going to 'emailable' – I'm thinking of all the practical activities they do but the teachers' plans will tell you what the class are doing and you may have to interpret how best to do an activity at home. Even with maths and English, it is not entirely straight forward as teachers often have to adapt their plans as the children progress through the week but we will do our best to help you to support your child's learning so they don't fall behind with what the rest of the class are doing.

And finally.....

It's fantastic to be able to use our extensive grounds whilst the weather is good and we continue to make school as normal as possible for the children. The children seem to be having a wonderful time and the teachers are in the process of getting to know their new classes and informally assessing their learning in order to work out their learning needs.

We have got several school trips planned. If you are a volunteer on a school trip which involves a coach journey, please bring your facemask, own hand sanitiser and ensure that you socially distance from other adults. HANDS, FACE, SPACE!

As ever, we are all here to work with you to achieve the best outcomes for your children; we just need to be able to do this at a distance from other adults in order to help to minimise the risks.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Amanda Brockway
Headteacher

