



02<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

## November 2020 Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have all had a brilliant half term break despite the dreadful weather and rather depressing news that we are now in another national lockdown situation. The good news is that this time, schools are staying fully open. This is great but we will need to make some changes and adjustments to keep everyone safe as the threat from Covid begins to rise again. Please can I ask again for your understanding and support as we feel our way through this uncharted territory.

Could I request that all parents wear masks or face coverings when dropping pupils at school and to try to stagger your arrival at school across the ten minute window rather than waiting for the window to open as this creates congestion and less chance of us all being able to keep our distance. If your child is in a later group please do not arrive before the allotted time and wait around as this defeats the purpose of a staggered start.

We have had to cancel after school activity clubs until Christmas. This is to reduce the number of additional and different adults entering the school building and to protect our bubble groups. If you have paid for an activity club up until Christmas you will either be refunded or be allowed to hold the payment over until the club re-opens. This is in line with government guidelines.

We will be updating you on how your children have settled back into school and their academic progress as normal in early December with the issue of a slightly amended termly report. There will also be the option of a telephone consultation if you have any concerns or worries having received the report. If you have not heard from one of our staff yet, then chances are your child has settled back well and is doing fine. If we have a concern, please be assured that we shall contact you. Lions and Tigers will be holding some Zoom meetings for their parents to update on how our little ones have settled in over the next few weeks. These meetings will act as a pilot for us. All teachers are available to talk over any concerns you may have at any time and you can request a phone call or email a teacher via the school admin email address [admin@bransgore.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bransgore.hants.sch.uk)

I think it is also very important to point out that unlike last time, during this period of lockdown, **school attendance is compulsory for all pupils**. Parents and carers must send their children to school unless they are ill, are displaying symptoms of Covid-19 and need to be tested or are awaiting test results or are in self-isolation for two weeks due to a family member or close contact having tested positive.

Please continue to talk to pupils about hands, face, space and support us in trying to keep the virus out of our school.

If we need to close a class, bubble or have to isolate a group of pupils, this will be done by following the latest government and PHE advice available to us at the time and we will keep you as informed as possible if or when this happens. If individuals or groups of children have to stay home then parents must support pupils to complete the home learning provided by the school. This will be very similar to the learning going on in school and so for pupils to keep up with their peers they must complete the home learning set.





Can I remind you all that pupils really should not be having play dates, sleepovers or any real contact outside of school. We know that this is horrid but we need to try to reduce the R rate as soon as possible. It is best if a family member from the same household collects each child from school unless it is absolutely impossible to do so. Please make use of our after school club if this helps. For the time being Year 5 and 6 pupils can continue to walk home unsupervised but we expect them to go straight home. If we hear of pupils congregating or not heading straight home then we may need to revise this decision and request that Year 5 and 6 parents drop off and collect their children from school.

### **Potential New Starters September 2021**

If you or any friends or family have pupils due to start school in September 2021 you will know that we have had to cancel our open afternoon events. Instead we have made a few lovely videos that give a snapshot of our school and what we are all about. These are available to view on our school website under the "Open Day Information" tab on the home page of the school website. We will continue to add more content to this tab as we move forward in the year.

On that tab there is also an invitation to attend one of two Zoom meetings with me which will take place on Friday 6th November, at either: 1:30 to 2:30pm or 4:00 to 5:00pm. To book a place, please email [admin@bransgore.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bransgore.hants.sch.uk) with a note of which time you would like and we will forward an invite to you nearer the time. We hope this will help you with the admissions procedure and your decision but please feel free to call the school with any questions you may have.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mr Brown

