



BROAD CHALKE C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Amanda Brockway

Chair of Governors: Mrs Louise Hall



11th November 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

National Lockdown

Well, thank goodness that despite everything else which has had to sadly close down, the schools are still open! We are all too aware that school is a lifeline for children, for parents and for staff. I know that the children are pleased to still be able to come to school and see their friends. As one of our staff said, 'We are the lucky ones, we still get to go to work and see our colleagues and the children'. This is typical of the positive Broad Chalke ethos.

It is vital that we all continue to follow the measures on the attached poster, so we can curb the spread of the virus and help protect ourselves and our loved ones. To stop the spread of COVID-19:

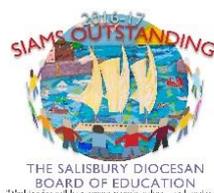
- limit contact with other people
- wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you meet people you do not normally meet
- do not leave home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms
- anyone who has symptoms should book a test and not leave home for at least 10 days. Those living in households should self-isolate for 14 days if they or any members of the household receive a positive test
- you can book a test by calling 119 or visit gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

Schools have been issued with new guidance but nothing which changes how we at Broad Chalke were already operating. We have got all of the measures in place that we can to reduce the chance of transmission of the virus. The biggest factor by far is that adults or children who feel unwell **DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL**. Community, household and transmission following overseas travel have been the biggest factors in the spread of the virus so the lockdown should help to keep us all safer.

Schools have been advised in the latest guidance to keep clubs to a minimum, something which we had already decided back in September. The same clubs (taekwondo, cookery and football) are continuing this term because the children are in bubbles, the activities have been risk assessed, all the hygiene measures are in place and because, like Early birds, they help parents to work.

So far, we have not had any positive cases of COVID19 but realistically this may happen at some point. Please remember that the Health Protection Team advise schools on what sort of closure is necessary i.e. just a few pupils, a whole class bubble or more depending on the circumstances. The government are adamant that schools should remain open as far as possible.

There has been no change to the requirement that ALL children should attend school unless they are ill, self-isolating or test positive or their GP has advised that they are in the clinically **extremely** vulnerable category. Children and young people who can't attend their school or college because of self-isolation etc are able to access their remote education. Where children are not attending school because parents are concerned or nervous about their child attending but they are not in the extremely clinically vulnerable category, it is not expected that remote learning is provided in these instances. Instead schools are advised to follow up with the family the reasons for the non-attendance and this should be treated as an attendance matter.



Parent Teacher Meetings

We have had mainly very positive feedback about the system we are trying this week with online video consultations between parents and teachers. The positives which I've had reported to me were that it was easy to book, more time efficient (even though the appointment length was, if the technology was working, the same length as usual), more focussed, easier for childcare, nice to see a simple example of progress with writing and that there was no waiting! There were, as expected, a small number of technical glitches but many were quickly overcome and where this was not possible, an alternative will be found. Please ring the school office to reschedule unless the school has already been in touch with you. Thank you to everyone for being prepared to try a new and safer way of working together. We will review if this is something which we will continue to offer.

Policies

We have a wide range of policies on our website. If parents would ever like to comment on or contribute to any of our policies then please do get in touch by e-mail. We would welcome your views. One new policy is the **Relationships and Health Education Policy**. Relationships and health education (RHE) for **primary** aged pupils became compulsory from September 2020. Primary schools are expected to start teaching this by at least the start of the summer term 2021. For us, there is very little change as we have always taught this and will continue to use the same DVD Resources in Y5 and Y6 which we have used for the past six years.

We teach RHE through different aspects of the curriculum. We carry out the main RHE teaching in our Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. We also teach some RHE through other subject areas (for example, in science) where we feel that this contributes to a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, and how it is changing and developing. Our approach to RHE will be in line with the guidance for KS1 and KS2 in the resource from the Diocese called 'Love and Sex Matters'. We will be using a new resource called **SCARF** which stands for **Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship**. The SCARF resource gives us everything we need to meet the new Relationships and Health Education statutory requirements and has lesson plans for Reception to Y6 which cover RHE in an age-appropriate way.

Parents can read details about this resource via <https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/scarf>

Please also see the attached document which explains more about **RHE**.

Curriculum

Our teachers continue to make their lessons as fun and engaging as they can, although they have had to make lots of adaptations. We also get the children outside as much as possible. Class 2 continue to enjoy their Forest School sessions with Wiltshire Wildlife on Wednesdays and Reception Class will be having 'Forest School Fridays'. Mrs Newman, who is undertaking Forest School training, will be in touch with YR parents with more details.

Singing

Under guidance issued by the government in late October, singing can happen in schools but only subject to a very tight risk assessment with ventilation, physical distancing and a small number of children singing at a time. We are so pleased to be able to re-introduce singing in music lessons but we still will not be singing in collective worship. It's so lovely to hear the sound of singing coming from the hall during music lessons.

Christmas just wouldn't be the same without singing! We plan to film the Nativity and the Carol Service with classes in their separate bubbles and then release a YouTube link to parents. The link will mean that only people with the link will be able to find the YouTube channel, it will not be available for everybody to see. The school office may need to ring some parents for permission to do this as we do not have consent for all children to be seen on social media. If permission is not given, we will ask those children to sit in a photo and video free zone.



Warm Clothing

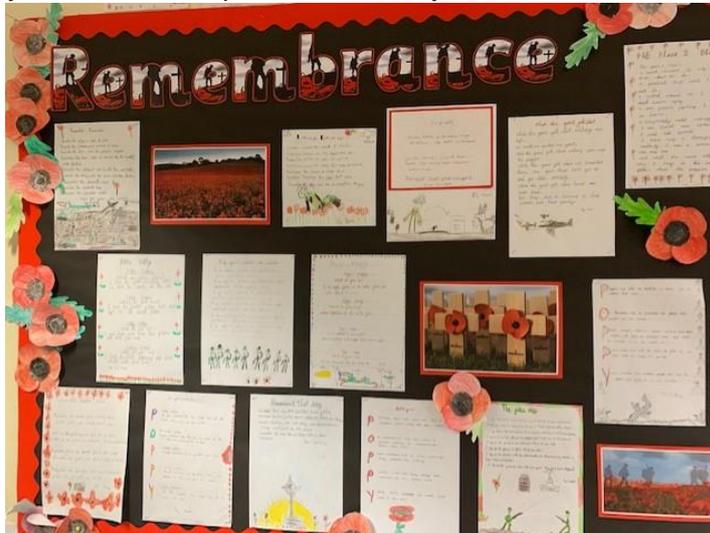
Ventilation is highly recommended in the government guidance for schools so please do make sure you send in your child with plenty of layers. It's pretty chilly for the staff too!

Bag2School

Thank you so much for contributing to our recent Bag2School collection. With your help we raised **£206.70 for 689kg** of clothing! This is such an easy way to raise money for FOBS who then support the school in so many ways. Thank you to Shosh Hobbs for organising this fundraiser.

Remembrance

This is a beautiful display in class 3 with poems written by the children about Remembrance.



Unfortunately, we were unable to walk to the War Memorial this year due to road works, despite great efforts to find a way to accommodate this. However, we used our 'wet weather' plan to hold a service in the hall for our KS2 children and the 2 minute silence was respectfully observed by all children. We chose children with a military connection or with an emergency services connection to hold the crosses for each class.



Yours sincerely,

A. Brockway

Mrs Amanda Brockway
Headteacher