



BROAD CHALKE C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Amanda Brockway

Chair of Governors: Mrs Louise Hall



2nd December 2020

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Dear Parents/Carers

It is definitely beginning to feel very festive in school now that we have had our Christmas craft day and the tree is up! We are doing our best to keep most of our Christmas traditions alive, just in a slightly different way. At school, we continue to aim to spread the light through this period of Advent and bring what we hope is comfort and joy. Never before has it been more important to remember our school aim 'To serve one another in love' and our school mission statement 'With the love of God we learn, care, grow and share'.



Christmas Tree



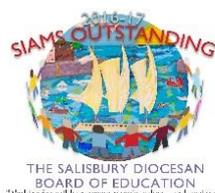
It's magical to see the look on the faces of the children when they see our beautiful Christmas tree, kindly donated by Simon Hiscock from Prescombe Farm in Ebbesbourne Wake (where you can buy lovely, locally-grown Christmas trees!). All school council members took a turn at decorating the tree in their separate bubbles rather than together as a group this year. Here is our tree being decorated by the year 6 members of the school council.

Christmas Post Boxes

Our class Christmas Post Boxes are now in place in classrooms. Children will only be able to send cards to other children within their own class and cards will be handed out on Monday mornings to give the weekend for a de-contamination time. Please ensure that all cards are clearly labelled with the **recipient's name and surname and that they are only written for children and staff within that class. Friday 11th December** is the deadline for Christmas cards in order that they are handed out within the class by **Monday 14th December**.

Nativity

The children have been rehearsing and Mr Howell has been filming, he just now needs time to edit and we plan to release the link to parents on **Thursday 10th December**. We will also show the nativity to **classes in their class bubbles**. Well done children, Mrs Newman and team.



Christmas Party Day – non-school uniform

We hope that Father Christmas will be able to visit us outside of school on **Friday 11th December** and that the children will receive a treat. There is no charge as this is supported by FOBS. The children will have party games which they can do within their own class bubble as normal.

Christmas Carol Service

We aim for Mr Howell to film the children in their separate bubbles and to provide a link for parents to watch in the final week of term. **We will also show the Carol Service to classes in their bubbles.**

Christmas Box Appeal

Boxes for the charity Christmas Box appeal will be collected week commencing **14th December.**

Pantomime

We have booked the online Pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk to be shown to the children in class bubbles on **Monday 14th December.** FOBS have kindly agreed to fund this in full. Thank you FOBS!

Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch is on **Tuesday 15th December.** Please book and pay via ParentPay if applicable.

Christmas Jumper Day – please wear with school uniform (except sweatshirt obviously!)

On **Wednesday 16th December** we have Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children (we welcome improvisations to jumpers!). There is a suggested donation of £1 via ParentPay to avoid handling cash.

Home Learning

The school has signed up for an online learning platform called **Seesaw.** Mr Howell is in charge of staff and pupil training along with communications to parents on this matter. He has been busy leading staff meetings and visiting classes to get everyone up to speed with how Seesaw works so you may already be aware of Seesaw but not too sure what it is! A letter went out to parents yesterday to explain how Seesaw can be used to support home learning. We still have our system of emailing work home if a child is absent due to coronavirus related reasons. However, Seesaw has the potential for lots of other uses, particularly if a whole class bubble had to close and I'm sure that parents will understand that we have to prepare ourselves for all eventualities. Mr Howell is working his way around the classes to explain the system to staff and children. I very much hope that parents will enjoy seeing some of their children's work online as we get this new system up and running and learn more about it together!

End of term

As a reminder, we break up at 1.30pm on **Wednesday 16th December,** as we had already booked our TD Days for **Thursday 17th and Friday 18th December.** School will re-open on **Monday 4th January.**

Clubs

We envisage that we will still be operating under the same risk assessment as we are currently working under which helps to keep us all safe but which does place restrictions on us. We will re-instate clubs on a case by case basis when it is considered safe and viable to do so but not in the immediate future. However, football, cookery and Tae-Kwon Do will continue next term.

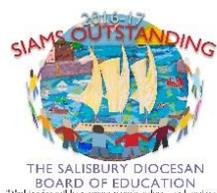
Positive Cases of COVID19

So far, we have not had any pupils or staff members test positive for COVID19. If a parent or a pupil does need a test, please self-isolate as a household until the result of that test is known and ensure you inform the school office both of the self-isolation and the result of the test.

If a test is positive, please inform the school office by email even during the Christmas break as we still have to notify the Public Health Team of any positive cases but we will not need to notify other parents so long as that person/ child was not in school 48 hours before they first showed symptoms.

In the event of a test we need to know:

- **Date of onset of symptoms.**
- **Date of test and date of result.**
- **Date child was last in school and how they travelled to school (because of other contacts).**



Keep on staying safe...

We have done so well so far, the last thing I want is to be instructed to tell a class bubble that they have to self-isolate in the lead up to or even including Christmas Day. The impact would be huge on so many families. Our best defence against this is if parents **keep children at home and get tested** if they have any of the recognised COVID19 symptoms.

Thank you!

Thank you all for your support in 2020 which has been such a challenging year for so many. I am so grateful to our staff for how they have supported the children throughout this time. Paradoxically, this year at times has both dragged by and also gone by so quickly with now only two more weeks to go until the Christmas holidays! Stay safe everyone, we're nearly there and ready to say goodbye to 2020 and look forward to better times in 2021!

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Amanda Brockway
Headteacher

PS I couldn't resist sharing this cheeky picture of our Reception Class too!

