



PB/LL 14.12.20

## End of Term and Gifts

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are rapidly approaching what has been the strangest and most challenging of terms at Bransgore School. I wanted to let you all know that we could not be more proud of your children. They have adapted to the strange circumstances in school, shown resilience and a super attitude to learning since their return to school in September.

The staff have tried to make school as similar to normal as possible but things are still not as we would like them to be. Phase bubbles and split shifts for pick up and drop off, playtimes and lunchtimes and continuous breaks for hand washing mean our children and staff do not mix or see each other as we would normally and it has been difficult.

Thank you for all the help and support that you have offered as we have planned and re-planned for the best approach to keep the virus out of school. You have been adhering to pick up and drop off times, respected our new guidelines and offered us encouragement and support as well as helping your children getting to grips with Google Classroom and online learning. You have all been brilliant.

As in the summer, I recognise that some of you feel you may want to give a gift to a member of staff as a thank you for going the extra mile this term. The staff are really tired and have been doing a multitude of jobs beyond their own to keep school ticking over. I am really proud of them all and very grateful for how they have pulled together. Normally we do not encourage you to give gifts to the staff and ask instead that you write a card or send in an e-mail of thanks.

This is in keeping with our school growth mindset philosophy. However, I am aware some of you may wish to make an exception this Christmas and I have had several questions about whether or not we will be accepting gifts for staff this Christmas. I feel that I would be branded a "Scrooge" if I did not say this was OK under the circumstances and so, if you would like to pass a gift to staff, please could I ask that it be handed in at the school gate by Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December so that we can quarantine them overnight before handing them to staff.

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS LETTER IS NOT AN ENCOURAGEMENT OR EXPECTATION THAT YOU BUY ANYTHING AT ALL FOR STAFF.**

We are well aware that Christmas 2020 will be one of very real hardship for some families and we would never wish to add to that. This letter is simply in response to questions that have been raised on the gate given the Covid situation and our previous "no gifts" policy.

I hope this letter clears things up for you. I will write to you all again before the Christmas holidays break out!

Stay safe and well,

Mr. Brown

