



BROAD CHALKE C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Amanda Brockway

Chair of Governors: Mrs Louise Hall



4th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year

First of all please may I extend thanks on behalf of all of the staff for the lovely cards, messages and gifts (many edible for the staff room!) received from children and parents. This will have been a rather different Christmas and holiday period with some families directly affected by the pandemic and with some anxiety about a new strain of the virus. However, despite all this, it was wonderful to see the children returning to school today with such positivity.

The debates about schools reopening following the Christmas break, and secondary school testing for COVID, has dominated the news and speculation is rife about what may happen next. Unfortunately, but understandably, schools get no more notice of any changes than the rest of the population. It seems likely that testing for COVID will be rolled out to primary schools by the end of February but we have no detail at all on how this will happen at this stage.

Broad Chalke School will be following government guidelines and has welcomed children and staff back to school today. The local authority have also been in touch and their message is to keep following the tier 3 national guidance. Our school will be open so long as it is considered safe to do so and I have the number of staff in school to ensure it is safe to operate. I am not able to authorise absences where parents choose not to send their children in to school and the school will not be providing home learning in these circumstances either unless it is an exceptional circumstance. However, I do understand that parents must do what they feel is best for their own families and circumstances.

Our entire school staff are very COVID aware and will continue with the best practice as demonstrated throughout last term. We all understand that there may be heightened levels of anxiety from staff, parents and children. As ever, we will be here to offer our support in the weeks and possibly months ahead.

We also need to be prepared to respond quickly if the advice from the government should change. For this reason, I am asking all parents to fill out the attached form ASAP to ascertain the level of need for keyworker / vulnerable provision should our school be directed to operate for these groups of children only with other children accessing remote learning. A paper copy will also be put in book bags. This is just a precaution in case the situation changes rapidly. Our current expectation is that we remain OPEN TO ALL.

At present we offer remote learning where it is a COVID related absence and the learning will be sent by email to make it manageable for the class teachers working face to face with the rest of the class. If it is a whole class bubble closure then our learning platform Seesaw will be used.

We must remember that the vaccine does offer us all the hope of a return to normality and that it is hope and solidarity which will keep us strong. We will do all that we can to keep our school community safe in these extraordinary times. Thank you all for your support, I hope that you are all able to stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely,


Mrs Amanda Brockway
Headteacher

