



BROAD CHALKE C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Amanda Brockway

Chair of Governors: Mrs Louise Hall



16th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

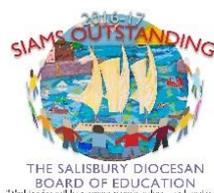
Remembrance Service at War memorial

We were all so proud of our children who attended the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial, led by myself and Reverend Catherine. This year we had to limit numbers to those children from classes 3,4,5 and 6. We were delighted to be joined for the 11.00am service by people from the village and some local veterans.



Remembrance Display

This is a beautiful display in class 3 with poems written by the children about Remembrance. The standard of writing and degree of empathy, understanding and compassion (our value this term) is quite exceptional.



COVID cases

Just before half term, we reached the threshold of cases (5 linked cases or 10% in the class within 10 days) where it was necessary to seek support from Public Health and we have followed their advice by, for example, reducing contact between classes, limiting visitors, not inviting parents into school for performances, pausing whole school assemblies and any other large gatherings and mixing, remaining vigilant with increased cleaning, along with a strict routine of hand washing / sanitising and lots of ventilation.

The amount of staff and pupil absence was the highest we have ever experienced although fortunately we have seen a much improved situation since half term. However, we still have several confirmed and some possible cases awaiting confirmation.

Public Health have now advised ALL Wiltshire schools, where outbreak threshold levels have been reached, to keep these extra measures as above in place until the end of November. Sadly, these are still far from normal times. It was inevitable that the virus would spread with the change in rules over household isolation. Close contacts of confirmed cases (including siblings of confirmed household cases) are advised to take DAILY LFD tests while awaiting PCR test results and while they continue to attend school.

Sadly, many of our parents in YR and Y1 have never known our school in normal times when we had parent volunteers and parents in every week for collective worship. As ever, thank you for your support through trying times.

Clubs

We have re-introduced most of our clubs this week now that case numbers are lower as we recognise how important the clubs are to the children and parents. However, we will be monitoring this situation closely as we try to strike a sensible balance between cautionary, preventative measures and a return to normality.

The Chalke Valley Challenge

The Chalke Valley Challenge is one of our major fundraisers. Huge thanks to all involved and in particular Graham Newman the race organiser and his team of helpers. The children who raised additional money through sponsorship were Cora Walsh, Emily Clark, Freddie Stainforth and Harry Stainforth. Together these children raised an additional £164! The final count minus expenses has not yet been completed but we hope to have raised approximately £1000 in total. Well done everybody!

Bag2School

Thank you so much for contributing to our recent Bag2School collection. With your help we raised **£159!** 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.

Parent Teacher meetings

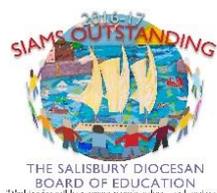
This is our 2nd year of holding online parent teacher meetings instead of face to face meetings in school. We could not have held face to face meetings this time as we were in an 'outbreak' situation. There were a few technical glitches but overall the feedback I have received is that the system is reasonably efficient and follow up appointments can always be made.

Parent Governor Election

The newly elected parent governor is Ed Gairdner. Governors play a significant role in the strategic leadership of the school and with changes coming with my departure, it is more important than ever that we have a full, active and committed team of governors.

Food Bank

We donated 92kg of food and supplies to the Salisbury Food Bank. Thank you so much for your generosity.



Christmas!

Is 16th November too early for me to mention Christmas?! Probably not, as plans have been made, although we have had to adapt certain things this year due to being advised to have precautionary measures in place until the end of November. Christmas in school is always a magical time, and we know from last year how we can still make it a very special time despite having to do things differently due to the current situation in schools.

Christmas Box Appeal

Thank you to all those who have contributed so far to the Christmas Box appeal. We hope that they will make some of the poorest people in Eastern Europe very happy. We have had 16 boxes donated so far and the collection date is **Tuesday 23rd November**.

Christmas Cards

The Christmas cards designed by the children looked really lovely, we hope you enjoy them.

Christmas Tree

We hope to have our Christmas Tree in place by **1st December**, kindly donated by Simon Hiscock from Prescombe Farm in Ebbesbourne Wake where lovely, locally-grown Christmas trees can be bought.

Christmas Craft Day

We will still be holding a Christmas Craft day but unfortunately, we won't be inviting parents in to help this year so staff will have to adapt a few activities. We all love it when the classrooms start to look festive!

Christmas Post Boxes

We will have our 7 class Christmas Post Boxes from **1st December**. Children will be able to send cards to other children within their own class. 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**.

Pantomime

We have booked a pantomime to perform for us at school on **Tuesday 7th December**. The Pantomime this year is 'Sleeping Beauty' and the company we use are very good at involving children in the performance. This year we will have separate performances for different year groups. We are requesting a voluntary contribution of £3.50 per child with FOBS kindly meeting the rest of the cost. We do not request a contribution from the parents of children entitled to the pupil premium. If you have any concerns about the financial contribution then please do speak to me in confidence as FOBS do have a small fund to help and I can make a request to FOBS without giving any names. Our preferred method of payment and consent is via ParentPay. Please log on to your ParentPay account, select Pantomime, give consent and pay online – it's as easy as that!

FOBS Christmas Hampers

The next big fundraiser for FOBS is the Prize Draw for the Christmas Hampers. Each class is allocated a colour and parents are invited to send in high quality gifts (nothing wrong with a little re-gifting!) on the colour theme as described below. The children can bring the gifts in and each classroom will have a cardboard box to collect them ready for the class reps to take them away on **6th December** to get the donations wrapped up in a beautiful hamper.

Reception class - silver hamper

Class 1 - red and green hamper

Class 2 - white and sparkly hamper

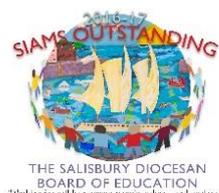
Class 3 - gold hamper

Class 4 - green hamper

Class 5 - purple hamper

Class 6 - red hamper

Please support us by also buying tickets and selling tickets to family and friends. The draw will be on **Friday 10th December**.



Nativity

We always do a short (it's about 20 minutes) but traditional Nativity Play. We supply all the costumes for Reception class who are the ones who dress up, but Class 1 and Class 2 have an important part to play too. Regretfully, because of the current situation, our plan is for Mr Howell to film the classes for the Nativity then make it available for parents to have a lasting record to look back on in years to come. I know it may be disappointing not to have a performance with parents as the audience. We plan for the link to the Nativity film to be released in the final week of term.

Christmas Carol Service

The Carol Service is for children from classes 3, 4, 5 and 6. The Carol Service involves more traditional Carols and Bible readings. Rather like the Nativity, we aim for Mr Howell to film the children in their separate classes and provide a link for parents to watch before the end of term.

Christmas Party Day – non-school uniform

We hope that Father Christmas will be able to visit us late morning on **Wednesday 15th December** and that the children will receive a treat. There is no charge as this is supported by FOBS. As this is a special day, the children wear their own clothes to school and have party games. Class reps have an important part to play behind the scenes so please look out for a message from our class reps co-ordinator, Lizzie Gairdner.

Christmas Lunch

There will be a delicious Christmas Lunch on **Thursday 16th December** so don't forget to sign your child up for a hot lunch via ParentPay. Mrs Tribbeck's Christmas Lunch is a very special treat!

Christmas Jumper Day

On **Friday 17th December** we have Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. It is perfectly ok to decorate an old jumper with tinsel and decorations. The suggested donation is £1. Please pay via ParentPay. **Please can pupils wear Christmas jumpers with school uniform (except sweatshirt obviously!).**

Year 6 Teacher

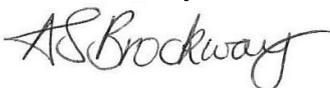
I'm delighted to tell you that we have appointed Mr Matt Hughes to be our year 6 teacher from **January to July 2022**, during which time Mr Howell will become the Acting Headteacher. Mr Hughes offers a wide range of experience including teaching Y6. He enjoys getting involved in school sport, particularly football, rugby and cricket and is a qualified football and rugby coach. He has also assisted in taking children on residential visits. We are all very pleased to welcome him to our team.

End of term

We break up for the end of term at 1.30pm on **Friday 17th December**, by which time I'm sure we'll all be ready for a well-earned break and all looking forward to our own family festivities!

This day will also be my final day as Headteacher at Broad Chalke School, and draws to close a long and happy career where my passion has always been to enhance the lives of children in order to give them the very best chances in life and happy memories of their time at Primary School. Broad Chalke School is an incredibly special place and I could not have chosen a better school to spend the majority of my career at firstly as a teacher from 1990 – 2004 and then as Headteacher from 2013 – 2021. I know that Broad Chalke School has shaped me just as I have shaped Broad Chalke School. I am incredibly grateful to all the people who have given me this wonderful opportunity. It truly is a privilege to lead and to serve this school and community.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Amanda Brockway
Headteacher

