

All Achieve. All believe, All Create, All a Family

BRANT BROUGHTON CE METHODIST PRIMARY SCHOOL

WEEK BEGINNING: 11TH JANUARY 2021



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! However, perhaps not the smooth start we were hoping for! The national picture looks so grim it is difficult to picture it as a 'happy' event perhaps.

Firstly, a big thank you to all of you who have coped with another chaotic week and for dealing with all your children's emotions that go with all the big decisions you have had to make. On behalf of the Government, apologies that you have been in this position. Once again, I had absolutely no prior knowledge of the announcement at 8pm last Monday evening. My apologies too that you may not have received my email until Tuesday morning although I was typing as Boris was speaking! I guess, every other school in the country was also on Parentmail at that time.

As yet, we still have a number of unknowns as far as term dates are concerned and I will have to let you know regarding Young Voices when things become clearer. The DARE programme for Pandas class has been postponed at this stage and we will keep you posted of any foreseeable dates.

School Attendance

Many thanks to those of you who have been able to reduce attendance at school from next week, this is much appreciated as we are currently running at around 50% full and around 80% of staff doing their normal hours. This obviously puts many more people at risk than I feel comfortable with. Updated guidance from the DfE came late on Friday night with a slight change of emphasis:

*Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, **but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.***

Once again, this is not directed at any of you who could not carry out your vital roles without a school place.

Internet Access

If you are struggling at home with insufficient devices, lack of data (if you are using a mobile phone) or in need of a router, please contact school as soon as possible as all of those things are being offered courtesy of the Government.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

FEBRUARY

2nd Feb – Young Voices Biggest Sing Event - tbc
15th – 19th Feb – Half Term

MARCH

31st March – End of Term

APRIL

1st April – INSET (staff training)
19th April – Start of Term

MAY

Week beg 10th May – Y6 SATs & Christian Aid Week
26th-28th May – Year 5/6 Residential
31st May – 4th June – half term

JUNE

7th June – Start of Term
8th June – Young Voices, Sheffield

JULY

21st July – End of Term

* Carres Outreach Sports Events taking place in school for a small group of children or one bubble



A few highlights from last term

A big thank you to those of you who supported the Leopards chocolate stall, they raised £72 which has been donated to the YMCA and Christian Aid at the request of the children. Not bad for around half an hour! We also had an extra donation to Christian Aid from Grace in Pandas class which she sent in instead of spending money on Christmas cards – thank you, such a thoughtful idea.

Cross Country

The Cross Country competition which was held remotely and organised by Leadenham CE Primary, meant that all of us could compete as we ran on our own school sites and then submitted our results. We won the team prizes for Year 1, Year 5, Year 5 and Year 6 which is pretty impressive. Individual winners were:

Year 1 boys: Lewis (2nd);
Year 1 girls: Charlotte (2nd); Eabha (3rd);
Year 2 boys: Isaac (2nd)
Year 2 girls: Penelope (1st); Annabelle (2nd);
Year 3 boys: Charlie (2nd);
Year 3 girls: Hattie (3rd)
Year 4 boys: William (2nd); Charlie (2nd); Henry (3rd);
Year 4 girls: Molly/Chloe (1st); Matilda (2nd);
Year 5 boys: George (1st); Johnpeter (2nd); Jack (3rd);
Year 5 girls: Emily/Ellie (1st); Charlotte (2nd);
Year 6 boys: Harry (1st); Bonham (2nd); Junior (3rd)
Year 6 girls: Niamh (1st); Julia (2nd); Maisie (3rd);

Well done to everyone that took part.

End of Term Celebration

Many thanks to so many of you who logged on to one or more of our end of term celebrations via Zoom. It was so lovely to be able to share these special times with you and it means so much to the children in school to see your faces on the screen!

Road to Tokyo/Cross Country

Keep adding to our Couch2Tokyo total at home too. The link is below to add any walks, runs, bike rides etc. that the children complete!

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4I_ewOP1L06Lz_HFSzjyi0fKIOtWtvhGse87nNu9SDBUNIRGNOIGVkywQU01N09NVExTMIIVN09YNC4u

Clothing

For those of you in school, please bring enough clothes with you – especially for PE which happens where possible outside. School is very cold as we have to keep well ventilated in the building, please bring extra (named) layers if you need them.

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For those of you not in school, most PE kits have been collected with books, if you still need your child's PE kit, please let us know and we will put it outside the main gate once again.

Lockdown Learning

We have had some truly lovely messages from so many of you thanking us for all our hard work during the managing of school and home learning. We do treasure all of these and appreciate your kind thoughts. We have had several asking us to locate lost items or other minor queries which you may have to be patient in us answering. Mrs Turner was in school answering emails until well after her contracted hours on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week. Please be patient as the ones concerning school places, school meals and vulnerable children have to take priority over lost clothing.

The government expectations for Remote Learning are as follows:

The remote education provided should be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school and will include both recorded or live direct teaching time, and time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently. The amount of remote education provided should be, as a minimum:

- *Key Stage 1: 3 hours a day on average across the cohort, with less for younger Children*
- *Key Stage 2: 4 hours a day*

If parents feel their children's school is not providing remote education of a suitable quantity and quality, they are encouraged to in the first instance raise their concerns with the teacher or Headteacher and, if the concerns are not resolved, to report the matter to Ofsted.

Our school was already meeting these expectations as our plans were developed prior to receiving this information. The use of Oak Academy by most classes and the live sessions – for most classes twice a day – plus the Home Learning prepared each week more than meet these requirements although you are of course, able to contact myself if you feel this is inadequate.

Mr Williamson seems to have side-lined each school's Complaints Policy and suggests you contact Ofsted directly although I believe Ofsted has been inundated with emails and Tweets praising schools! At present we have no further plans to change our Remote Learning by adding any further live elements although we are constantly reviewing our provision.

Learning for the week will now be added to the new school website class pages by every Monday morning.

<https://www.brant-broughton.lincs.sch.uk/>

I believe I have unlocked Accelerated Reader to allow children in KS2 to quiz on their reading books from home – please let me know if this doesn't work!

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Free School Meals

I am still awaiting information about Free School Meals and whether we are providing vouchers or food boxes and how the system will work. I will keep you informed as soon as I receive an update.

Many thanks once again, for your continuing support.