



Dear Parents,

I hope this finds everyone fit and healthy. Many thanks to those of you with children in school who have been able to reduce the number of days your child is in school. We still have just over 50% of pupils in school for at least part of the week which is a huge number for lockdown! I know that we have a huge number of critical worker parents amongst you and that none of you are sending your child in where you do not need to as it puts all of the rest of the children, and staff at further risk. As always, we continue to remain vigilant to potential infection and ask that you do the same at home. If in doubt, please keep them at home and book a test online or via telephone. We really would rather be safe than sorry.

Internet

My apologies again for the internet failure on Friday (and this morning). It did start working (very slowly) by the afternoon but not enough for all our Zoom sessions. There was a fault with the connection which now been resolved this morning.

Remote Learning

Thanks again to those parents attempting to juggle work commitments either from home or in the work place alongside your child's home learning. We are delighted to have had such positive responses to home learning and excellent attendance for Collective Worship and class Zoom sessions – it remains over 95% everyday consistently now. The teachers, who all felt a bit nervous about this way of working at the start, all tell me how much they look forward to their class zoom sessions.

The Home Learning Protocol send out this week and available on the website sets out clearly our expectations for all of us. On the front sheet, I have set out some context for this and have been quite frank about what staff felt were the greatest challenges from the last lockdown that we are trying to mitigate this time: a loss of our 'all' identity; losing touch with some families completely and children struggling to work independently on their return to school. These are the things we are trying to rectify this time.

I have had four years of training before entering a classroom as a qualified teacher and 26 years' experience and I still have days where it goes wrong and lesson outcomes are not what I had hoped for! If you are teaching your child at home, please don't think we are judging your efforts in school. However, if we feel that children can do better, we will pass this on in our feedback, to support you in knowing what our expectations are and ensuring that children do not fall behind.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

FEBRUARY

2nd Feb – Young Voices Biggest Sing Event – postponed until the Summer – **date 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

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We also know what our children are capable of, particularly in writing. We are not expecting 100% perfect writing, just as we don't for reading or maths, and for younger children it is useful to see whether they are able to sound out words to spell them using their phonic knowledge. This is an important learning step for them. Please encourage them to be as independent as possible in their learning.

We are so appreciative of your enthusiasm and dedication and will support you however we can.

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.

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_HFSzjyi0fKIOtWtvhGse87nNu9SDBUNIRGN0IGVkywQU01N09NVExTMIIVN09YNC4u

Clothing

Polar Bears Class is short of spare pairs of boys pants in case of accidents. We previously had lots – they are all labelled with 'BB' in marker pen. Perhaps you could check washing baskets at home? If anyone has any spare ones, please could you send them in, we will quarantine them in school before use. Thank you.

Free School Meals

I have already sent out vouchers for at least the first two weeks of the Spring term for those who are eligible through Pupil Premium. I will sent out more this week until the half term break.

School Calendars

The PTA have many copies of the school calendar which you can purchase for £10 from the school office. Please let us know via enquiries if you would like one. All children in school on the day of the photos are included. It is a great fundraiser during a term when we are very limited as far as the amount of fund raising we can do!

The other way we can continue to raise funds is through our school lottery. You can enter this from the link below. It is a great scheme which has raised school over £3224 since we started using it a few years ago. Every week there is a prize winner from within our school who wins around £10 - £12. Your ticket is also entered into a bigger draw with other schools in the country. It is really easy to set up.

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If you haven't signed up yet visit our lottery here: -

<https://www.yourschoolottery.co.uk/lottery/school/brant-broughton-c-of-e-and-methodist-school>

End of Key Stage Tests

You may have heard that end of key stage tests (SATs) have been cancelled for Year 2 and Year 6 this Summer, as have the Phonics Screen for Year 1.

Sept 2021 Intake Admissions

We have been advised by the School Admissions Team that the initial closing date for Reception 2021 applications was the 15th January but late applications and any changes will be accepted up until 12th February.

The Parent Portal will be open up until Thursday 28th January for parents to make an online application. After that it would be best to make a telephone application by contacting 01522 782030.

Many thanks once again, for your continuing support.