

Braywood Newsletter



Wishing you a very happy
Christmas!



Autumn 2020

What is happening this term?

Tuesday 5th January	Back to School at usual time
Monday 11th January	Booster and childcare groups start at 8am
Friday 12th February	Last day at school closes from 1.30-2pm
15th – 19th February	HALF TERM
Monday 22nd February	Back to school with clubs open
TBA	Child/parent/teacher consultations
Thursday 1st April	EASTER BREAK Last day of school

Last few days at school!

With just a day to go before the end of this term, everyone is looking forward to Christmas. I feel that the whole school community have worked so hard to support each other through these challenging times. All staff have ensured the children's safety whilst maintaining educational standards and our parents have helped us achieve this by being so supportive and understanding.

The Educational secretary has asked all schools to continue to record any positive cases of Coronavirus until 23rd December. They are asking the school to report any positive cases for 6 days from 17th December. Some schools have decided to close of this date but Braywood is continuing with our published dates to reduce any confusion.

We will be closing between 1.30 – 2pm on Friday 18th December with the EYFS pupils without siblings arriving at 1pm to reduce congestion.

Please note

Don't forget to look at our website for all the latest information especially on the curriculum, assessment and helping your child in the classroom. There is also a section on Coronavirus under 'parents and pupils'.





What has been happening in school?

Some of our recent achievements.

Building up to Christmas

This year the children have still experienced a rich and exciting Christmas experience.

Instead of actually having the Magical Elf and Pantomime in school we have had virtual performances. We have continued to share a Christmas meal, make a whole manner of Christmas merchandise and had a lot of fun in the process.

Major Christian milestones have been celebrated such as Harvest

and our Christmas Nativity. All parents have received an electronic copy of these performances. We have maintained our links with all churches and our initial topic of Celebrations has covered all faiths or no-faith.



Physical and mental wellbeing

We are very mindful of everyone's wellbeing and there is a PSHE and physical timetable to support a healthy mind including PE breaks, lots of sport and supporting the 'Young Minds, charity, despite this pandemic.



**Achieving
Excellence
Together**

Pupil Parliament Survey

Children's Survey regarding the arrangements through Lockdown

Through our Pupil Parliament sessions, we have looked at the impact of having time off school on our pupils. They all completed a survey regarding their perspective on Lockdown; the new hot menu and names for our new dining area.

When asked what the best aspects of Lockdown, they said they liked spending time with their family, having a more relaxed day and having their parents as their teacher. Nearly all agreed that the hardest thing was missing their friends and having to do work without their teachers.

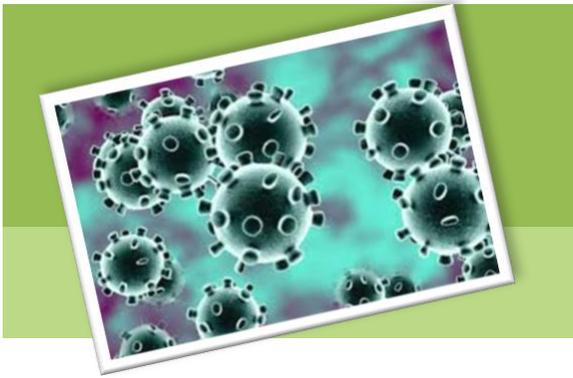
They also said that their parents made them work harder than school.

To make Lockdown better they wanted less homework, more virtual opportunities to be with their friends and no pressure from their parents.

On a whole they all liked the new hot grab bags for lunch and the uptake of lunches has gone from 5% to 90% with the introduction of these warm meals. It was decided that they should be called happy bags. They are missing the jacket potatoes though.

Finally, the ideas for names to call the canteen are – Brilliant Braywood (Oak, Acorn) Café/Bistro, The Wobbly Teacup, Sonia's Café, Garden View, etc. To improve the area they would like tablecloths, individual chairs, china plates, music playing, and room decorated with trees and acorns.

Next term we will be making a decision on the name of our canteen so that we will be able to decorate the dining room over the Spring.



Events coming up soon!

Breaking News

Everything has gone well this term
THANK YOU!!

Coronavirus Update

Here are some reminders of school procedures during this pandemic.

Children are still washing their hands several times during the day; all staff are cleaning the equipment and tables after use; children are taught to adopt good respiratory hygiene and we are taking the children's temperatures before they come into the classroom.

All children will remain in their classroom group for all lessons, play time, lunch and coming in and out of school. The classrooms continue to be organised to reduce face-to-face contact when learning. Children obviously find it hard to stay socially distanced, but they are aware of their personal bubble and that no one should be entering their own personal space.

At present we are not having any whole school events and since we went into Tier 2, we have greatly restricted the visitors into school. Anyone who is in school follows our Covid-friendly procedures

Whilst we have no immediate plans to provide any additional clubs, the booster and childcare clubs offer some support to our working families. Next term the teachers will be conducting their usual 'catch-up' classes for the Spring term.

Drop offs and Pick ups

Thank you to everyone who has supported our new drop off and pick up procedures.

The slight change we will be making next term is that all classes will be dismissed on time at the end of the school day

Year 1 and Foundation at 3pm and Year 2,3 and 4 at 3.15 pm but the teacher will be waiting for 10 minutes after this time to ensure that parents can avoid periods of congestion.

To avoid parents having to wait on a busy road which is unsafe and adding to the problems on the road, **all siblings will be dismissed with their older sister or brother at their dismissal times.**

These arrangements are

Year 4 at the main gate for 3.15pm
Year 3 at the annexe for 3.15pm
Year 2 at the annexe for 3.15pm
Year 1 at the annexe for 3pm and
EYFS at the main gate for 3pm.

All the younger siblings will stay in their own classroom with their teacher until they are dismissed alongside their family member.

All drop offs at 8am or 8.45am remains the same arrangements. Please be prompt.

Government Guidelines for Covid 19

We are adhering to all National guidelines. If a child has a temperature above 38 degrees or they appear unwell with a cough, then they will be sent home immediately.

If your child or a member of your family are unwell then we would ask you to immediately self-isolate for 10 to 14 days, take a test and inform the school of the outcomes. We expect everyone to have an active engagement with the NHS Track and Trace procedures.

If there is a positive case at school, then we will follow the HSE advice and all parents will be informed. The risk assessment of the school is the responsibility of myself and as such I apply the guidelines in the way I feel best suits the staff, children and parents of our school.

If you plan to go on holiday and then have to self-isolate for 10 days, (or 5 if you pay for a test). We would ask that you respect government procedures.

We do need everyone to support these guidelines to keep us all safe at Braywood.

We have had our fair share of positive cases and this will only be more apparent when we return back to school in January.

PE Fridays

We will still be asking for children to come to school in their PE kits on Fridays. There is an extensive physical programme on this day. PE is undertaken on other days e.g. every child has a PE burst but these have been organised so that a PE kit is not required. This greatly reduces and risk to staff members.

Rucksacks & NO Bookbags

Recently, there have been some organisational changes that have gone really well and may be maintained after this pandemic e.g. playground arrangements, rucksacks, eating together as a class etc. are preferred by some children.

Please do reply to my survey to add your views as to what you feel has gone well and what you feel could be improved for the better

Thank you to all the parents who have prepared a snack for your child last term.

Communication

Communication will continue as normal. We have started to use the school WhatsApp for urgent messages, and we will be hosting our Parent/Child and Teacher consultations in March. Please continue to send your messages during school hours, not evenings or weekends. Teachers will always send their messages out on Sunday evening.

We have been holding some virtual lessons for the children who have had to self-isolate whilst the rest of the class are in school.

Car Parking

It is more important than ever to adhere to our Traffic Code of Conduct. At present there are daily complaints regarding parents parking on the double yellow lines and who do not change this behaviour regardless of repeated pleas. In the new year we will be asking the community traffic wardens to police this matter as a last resort.

We also require parents not to congregate on or near the school and leave as soon as you have collected your child/ren. This adds to traffic congestion and obstructs the ability for our parents to social distance.

I appreciate that there is a social aspect to bringing your child to school, but I think at the present time this would need to be arranged virtually or at another venue.

Homework

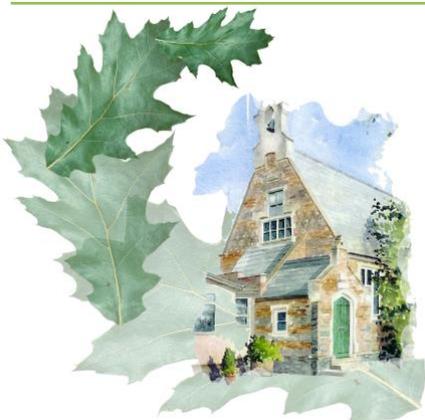
Teachers will continue to provide weekly homework but with reduced movement of paper/books between home and school. This will be reviewed in the new year.

News from the Governors

We are looking to appoint another Parent Governor soon. As we would like our Governing Body to reflect the make-up of our school, our skills assessment suggest that we would like a candidate who has business or financial experience. We are looking for dads to support this application please.

Next term

Next term we still plan to organise our Maths, Literacy and Science Days. The theme will be the 2020 Census. We will be having a Roman and Egyptian experience and looking at Victorian toys and artifacts.



Everyone at Braywood wishes you a lovely Christmas and New Year break. We hope that you all stay safe and return back to school refreshed and looking forward to another successful term.

Warm and festive regards

Susan Calvert



Kind Regards

Susan Calvert

Theme – Relationships, Family and Friendship

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