

16th December 2020

Dear Parents,

What a year!

As we approach Christmas, I wanted to write and thank parents, staff, governors, Friends of Brookland and the children for all their support and hard work over the last few months.

As a school, we always recognise the trust you place in us, both to care for and educate your children. This year couldn't have tested that trust more. So, thank you for putting that trust in us, for being understanding as we responded to guidance, showing patience whilst we tweaked things and your adaptability in relation to everything that we have asked of you.

As I write today, we have had no positive cases in our children or staff. Considering the impact that the virus has had on some schools, this is truly phenomenal. That is a testament to the hard work of the whole school community in making sure that we follow guidance and consistently and rigorously apply the measures we have put in place. In fact, school attendance is the best it has ever been. Officially attendance sits at 96.4%, if you consider only the children of statutory school age and those that have been in the position to return since September, attendance rises to 97.7%. This is well above the numbers being quoted through the press for schools. 36 children still have 100% this term. That is amazing and should be celebrated.

Going forward, we will keep in touch after Christmas with any updates should anything change.

PLEASE NOTE

If your child returns a positive test for Coronavirus, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, we would ask that you contact us so that we can consult with Public Health England about those children and identify anyone who is considered a close contact. We will be in touch if we need to.

As it is the end of term, we are also sending out some information about how the children have returned to school in relation to their learning. We haven't looked at attitude and behaviour, as on the whole, the children have been amazing. Adapting to all that is asked of them. They have worked hard and tried their best to grasp all the things they have missed. We hope the information is self-explanatory. If your child is not in school today, we will make sure that we pass the information to you in the new year.

We still have a little way to go but are feeling confident that the majority of children have caught up a lot on what they have missed. The remainder of the year will be ensuring that children learn the key elements of the year group they are in, so that they are ready to start the appropriate year group programmes of study in their next

year group in September.

Christmas – today is Christmas dinner day, which we are all looking forward to. It would normally be at this time of year that we would invite you to the school for our Christmas Nativity. We didn't want you to miss out this year so have filmed it for you to watch at home. We intend to share it with the children this morning. It lasts about 20 minutes, so if you have time to sit down with a cup tea...enjoy.

To watch the Nativity, you would need to follow the link –

Link and Password have been shared on DoJo

Could we ask that you keep the video within the school community and not share it any wider or on any other social media platforms.

Today, we also say goodbye to Mrs Blunt. She will be really missed by us all. We haven't had the chance to say a proper goodbye but hope to do so in the future when we can meet together. We will say a goodbye to her this afternoon in Collective Worship.

Finally, I thank you again, whether that be for the gifts you have sent in, your positive comments, for the passing 'how are you?' at the gate, for following the rules and playing your part in keeping the children safe.

Your commitment and actions have ensured that not only do our children get 'A brighter future' but they get a brighter today, every day.

Take care, stay safe and most importantly – stay well.

With our very best wishes to you all.

Mr H and the staff of Brookland CE Primary

