15th September 2023

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to be able to write my first entry for our monthly newsletter as the new Head of Learning of Broadhembury Church of England Primary School. I feel extremely honoured and privileged to have been chosen to continue to build upon the success that the school has already achieved under the leadership of Miss Kate Prince, working alongside Mrs Katie Gray. I would like to say thank you for your lovely comments this week and the warm welcome that I have received. To quote one parent this week who said to me ‘Our small school is such a lovely school, a really family community - you should be proud.' I certainly am!  I have thoroughly enjoyed my first weeks in situ and I am extremely excited about the journey ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome back to school for the new academic year. What a lovely start we have had! Not only has the weather been wonderful, it has been fantastic to see all of the children returning to school with smiling faces and such enthusiasm. Our new Reception children walked in with confidence on Wednesday and have settled very well indeed since. I have enjoyed visiting both classes and am pleased to have seen that the children are happy and already enjoying their learning.

Being a mother of two girls, I am very much aware of the responsibility that my staff and I have in ensuring that the highest standard of teaching and learning is achieved for all the children at Broadhembury Church of England Primary School. As a parent my goal has always been to ensure my children are happy in life and achieve their potential. This is the philosophy I bring to my role as Head of Learning at Broadhembury School and my vision is to ensure all children feel happy and safe, and are provided with all the necessary opportunities to be the best they can be both socially and academically. We have a hugely committed and talented staff team and wonderful children, which of course, is a great place for any new Head of Learning to start!

The needs of the children are always paramount in the life and decision making within a school. I strongly believe in providing all pupils with exciting, creative and meaningful learning experiences, which build their enthusiasm for learning and help them to grow and develop positively in a variety of ways. I think it is crucial to involve the children and their families as partners in their education. I am also keen on building a whole school community which thrives on mutual respect and values positive relationships. I know how vital working in partnership with parents really is, in order for children to find school a positive and rewarding experience.

As key educators in your children’s lives, I feel that it is important that you have a voice and that as a school we are approachable and allocate time to listen to your concerns, worries or thoughts about the school. You can be assured that as Head of Learning, I will strive to create the best education for your child/children whilst they are members of our school family. Whenever possible, I will continue to be at the gate before and after school each day. Please do come up and introduce yourselves outside school to myself, as well as new members of the team, if you have not already done so. I sincerely look forward to meeting more of you in the coming weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise that we have an ‘open door’ policy; should you have any queries or concerns, I would encourage you to contact myself, or if more appropriate, your child’s class teacher, via our admin team, to further discuss these.

*Thank you all for your continued support.*

*God bless and have a lovely weekend,*

*Jemma Harvey-Jones (Head of Learning) and the staff at Broadhembury CE Primary School*

**Class 1**

A very warm welcome from the Class 1 team to all of the children and in particular to our new starters. We have an exciting year ahead of us, and can’t wait to see what the children achieve in the weeks to come. The children are settling in really well and remembering the expectations that we have in school. They have written their class charter based on their own ideas but under the 4 rights that we decided upon:

* We have the right to feel safe.
* We have the right to learn.
* We have the right to be heard.
* We have the right to be healthy.

The children decided that they wanted their Charter display to be pink and purple and include flowers and elements of outer space! Come and have a look when you are next in the classroom. You will be able to talk with your child about what rights and responsibilities means to them and how they follow the class charter that they decided upon together.

**Early Years Curriculum**

The majority of the children’s learning at this stage in the year is still done through adult and child initiated experiences. The children in Reception will soon begin a short daily phonics session, teaching them initial sounds using our Bug Club programme. The sessions last about 20 minutes and focus on learning different sounds and sight words. They will also have a daily maths session where they will be exposed to all mathematical concepts during the course of the year. They will have a short literacy input in the morning as well once they have settled in and are able to sit for a short time on the carpet. The children in Reception will be talking about themselves, their families and their homes this term, also noticing the changes as we move towards autumn. Finally, the children will begin a fine motor skills program called ‘High 5’. It centres mainly on cutting and pencil control and is great fun!

**Reception Children - Focus Child**

Over the next few weeks, children in Reception will be receiving a letter which will let you know that they are the ‘Focus Child’ for this week. This is a way for us to find out more about your child by talking to them but also by asking you as their parent to direct us to topics that are of interest to them, or to tell us about events in their lives that we can use as a ‘way in’. It also gives you the opportunity to tell us about any areas which you would like us to focus on or any worries or questions that you may have. Once we have decided on areas of focus in this way your child will carry on their week as normal, but staff will collect observations, conversations and note adult and child-led interactions. This will enable us to build up a picture of your child’s learning for the week. From this Mrs Symonds will be able to focus on the next steps for your child’s progress. It would be helpful if you could then arrange a time to come in and discuss this - it doesn’t have to be lengthy - 10 minutes after school or even a phone call if your child is on the bus. If not, these focused observations will provide opportunities for discussion at parents evening. Having said all of this, please don’t feel that this is your only opportunity to communicate with Mrs Symonds. She is always at the door in the morning for a brief chat. Mornings are extremely busy in school, so if you have something that needs a bit longer, please feel free to phone or email and book an appointment after school.

**Key Stage 1 Curriculum**

The curriculum this term is a history based one and details can be seen below for humanities subjects. The children will also be studying human survival and habitats in science and leaning about recipes in design and technology. Computing is all about coding and in art and design, the children will be learning how to mix colours and how to draw a still life.

***History***

This term, our history topic is called Movers and Shakers. This project teaches children about historically significant people who have had a major impact on the world. They will learn to use timelines, stories and historical sources to find out about the people featured and use historical models to explore their significance.

***Geography***

Our geography topic is called ‘Let’s Explore the World’. This project teaches children about atlases, maps and cardinal compass points. They learn about the characteristics of the four countries of the United Kingdom and find out why there are hot, temperate and cold places around the world. They also compare England to Somalia. Children carry out fieldwork, collecting primary data in their locality to answer geographical questions.

***P.E.***

The children in Class 1 will not need a P.E. kit in school for this year. Our P.E. lessons are based around a 15 minute daily fundamental skills sessions. These sessions are built upon during the course of the week. The children don’t need to get changed for them. There are also opportunities to play games and get involved in various activities during playtime and lunchtime.

***Reading***

Year 1 and 2 will begin bringing home their reading packs again, Reception will not have reading books just yet. All the children will begin to bring home a library book to share with you. Phonics has begun again in earnest and the children will benefit from as much reading practice as possible. We will be holding a reading meeting in school on Thursday 28th September where you will be given an opportunity to watch a short phonics session and to have a look at the materials that we use to teach reading across Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. More details to follow.

***Homework***

Year 1 and 2 will begin homework over the next couple of weeks. This will consist of short tasks that the children should be able to complete independently. It may be something that helps to consolidate learning, or practise something that they have been taught. Please encourage your child to engage with this and come and see Mrs Symonds if there are any questions or queries.

**Class 2**

It has been a great start to the year for Class Two. Everyone has settled in well and shown fantastic effort with our first pieces of work. The children have worked hard on using neat, joined handwriting and producing well-presented pieces of work. It has been great to see lots of reading from everyone in Class Two as well. We have spent lots of time discussing the importance of reading and how to choose sensible books that help us to make good progress in our reading. Alongside this, we have started two reading challenges to encourage the children to read regularly, with rewards for completing books and reading lots of pages. I have been very impressed to see so many children enthusiastically reading. Over the coming weeks, everyone should be bringing home reading books from the appropriate book band and have access to more books on Bug Club.

In Maths, we have begun work on place value. We have been looking at numbers from 1000 (for year four) up to ten million (for year six), exploring the different values that make up these numbers and revising work on rounding numbers. This gives us a helpful foundation to build on over the coming months as we work on the four operations and using our number understanding to solve problems and explain our reasoning. Everyone has been putting excellent effort into completing their work and building up their number confidence. We have also taken time to log on to Times Tables Rockstars. It would be really helpful if everyone can practise their number skills regularly - quick recall of times tables as well as simple additions and subtractions makes accessing new learning much easier.

In English, we have begun looking at Michael and Clare Morpurgo's 'Where My Wellies Take Me'. It is a beautiful book and full of lovely descriptions, which we will use to help inspire our own descriptive recounts of enjoyable walks. We will focus on sharing some of our favourite walks, developing detailed descriptions and checking that our basic sentence structures are accurate. To support this, we will be taking an enjoyable class walk, taking photos and letting nature inspire us. This ties in really well to our new topic 'Sow, Grow, Farm'. The children have shared some excellent knowledge of farming and plants. We used this to begin our topic by planning a new allotment development, discussing what would make it a success. Everyone showed some excellent discussion skills as they argued for their favourite proposal. There will be lots more fun activities to come, from Artwork to a trip to the Farmwise event.

It has been a great start to the new school year, and I look forward to seeing everyone continuing to bring their positive attitude to many exciting challenges ahead.

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**BROADHEMBURY BRIDGES**

**Class 1:**

**Alice, Noah and Evelynn –** Well done to the new Reception children for making a fabulous start to your school journey. You have settled in beautifully as part of Class 1.

**Paisley -** Congratulations on a fabulous start to Year 1 - you have already become a valued member of Class 1.

**Class 2:**

**River –** An enthusiastic start to the new academic year. Well done!

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| **Question of the month****Class 1:** Would you rather be as small as an ant or as tall as a giant?**Class 2**: Class 2: What do you think we mean by 'reading for pleasure'? What or when do you get the most pleasure from reading? |

**Key Dates – Autumn Term 2023**

Wednesday 27th September - Class 2 Literacy day at Branscombe.

Tuesday 10th October - Class 2 Farmwise Trip.

Thursday 14th September, 9.10am - Harvest Service at Church.

Thursday 28th September, 2.45pm - Reading Workshop.

Thursday 12th October, 3.30pm - 4pm - Parent Reading Café.

Thursday 19th October - Last day of half term.

Monday 30th October - First day back for children.

**Important Notices**

**Defibrillator**

A couple of years ago, in some of the end of year church services I spoke about the work of the Oliver King foundation – a charity from my home city of Liverpool. The charity was set up after [Oliver King](https://www.itv.com/news/granada/topic/oliver-king), 12, suffered a sudden cardiac arrest at school during a swimming lesson in Liverpool in 2011. The schoolboy had an unknown but treatable condition called Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome (SADS), which kills 12 people each week.

Since his death his dad Mark, who set up the [Oliver King Foundation](https://theoliverkingfoundation.co.uk/), has joined forces with former England footballer [Jamie Carragher](https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2021-08-10/jamie-carragher-backs-calls-for-defibrillators-in-all-schools) to push for mandatory defibrillators in all schools.

Following the campaign, in July 2022 the Government pledged every state school in England would receive a defibrillator - a device that gives an electric shock to the heart of a person who is in cardiac arrest - by the end of the 2022/23 academic year.

Research shows that accessing a defibrillator within three to five minutes of a cardiac arrest increases the chance of survival by over 40%.

I was thrilled when the defibrillators arrived to each of our federation schools at the end of the summer term.

Hopefully, we will never need to use them but in case you are ever in need of this emergency piece of equipment the one at Broadhembury is located in the office hanging on the right hand wall by the shelving unit.

The Department for Education (DfE) has said millions of children in England now have access to these devices, which it said drastically increase the chance of pupils and teachers surviving a cardiac arrest.

If you would like to find out more about the Oliver King Foundation please see https://theoliverkingfoundation.co.uk/

**Sharing Assembly**

Remember, our sharing assembly is on a Friday at 3pm in the church. Please join us where the children will share elements of their learning and where we hand out awards and celebrate achievements. We will put a notice on the gate to let you know if there is no sharing assembly due to school visits etc.

**Hats and Bottles**

Please ensure that your child has had sunscreen applied before they come into school as we will be out and about for our learning in this glorious weather. Also, please do send in a named hat and a bottle for water – no juice or squash in school please. We are promoting good oral hygiene where possible.

Thank you for sending in hats and water bottles last week, please continue to send your child with a water bottle that they can refill throughout the day. We tend to keep them off the tables to prevent spillages on their work. The children have a ‘bottle box’ where they store their bottles, but have access to them at any time during the day. Thank you for your help with this.

**Teddies and Toys**

The Class 1 children are settling well and I know that some of them have needed a transitional object from home (such as a teddy) to help with this. As we move further into the term, I would be really grateful if we could reduce the number of items that come in from home. Whilst it is lovely to see things that the children hold dear to them, it can cause distractions from learning both for them and for their peers and there is always the fear that their favourite teddy will be lost, damaged or even worse, left behind overnight! If toys do accidentally make their way into school - as we know they sometimes do - we will keep them in the office for the day to prevent this and your child will be able to bring them home at the end of the day. Obviously if there is a reason, please just let us know as this prevents misunderstandings and upsets.

**School Uniform**

Please can you ensure that your child has all their uniform named. It really helps at the end of the day to ensure that the correct jumper is returned to the correct child. Also, as the weather gets colder, please can you ensure that your child has a warm coat and that any hats, gloves etc. are named. Thank you for your help.

**School Bus**

We have had a request from the bus company that brings the children to school from Dunkeswell, please can parents not park in the bus stop to enable the bus to be able to park and the children to get off the bus safely. Thank you for your co-operation. If you have any queries about the bus please contact Sarah Bishop at Devon School Transport. Sarah.bishop@devon.gov.uk. Please could you also contact her if you allow your child to walk from the bus stop home on their own so she can notify the bus company. Thank you.

**Free school meals.**

If your circumstances have changed over the holidays your child may now be eligible for free school meals.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

* Income Support
* income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
* income-related Employment and Support Allowance
* support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
* the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
* Child Tax Credit (provided you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
* Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
* Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Although all children in reception, year 1 and year 2 are eligible for free school meals, it is worth applying anyway, as the school receives extra funding for these children, which is used to provide extra help and resources. Parents should apply through the Citizen Portal, which is the quickest and easiest way to get an instant decision. For more information please see <https://www.devon.gov.uk/support-schools-settings/administration-and-finance/administration/free-school-meals/>

**Advice on Covid-19**

As you may be aware, there are some concerns regarding the recent spread of Covid-19. Please see below updated guidance on what to do if you suspect a case of Covid-19 or test positive.

* For diarrhoea and vomiting, people need to be 48 hours free of symptoms to return to the setting (pupils and staff)
* Children with **mild symptoms** such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, **can continue to attend their education or childcare setting.**
* Anyone who is **unwell,** including people with a high temperature, should **stay at home** and avoid contact with others until they have recovered. They can return to the setting once they no longer have a temperature (without medication) and are well enough to do so. (pupils and staff)
* **Children** and young people under 18 years old who have a positive test for **Covid-19** should stay away from the setting for **3 days** after they took their test (and until they are well enough to return, including no temperature).
* **Staff**who have a positive test for **Covid-19** should stay away from the setting for **5 days** after they took their test.

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| **Wellbeing***There has been much press in recent months about children’s mental health. As part of our drive to support this we are going to include something each month in the newsletter about Health and Wellbeing. We hope you find this section useful. If you have any topics you would like us to find some helpful tips about, please let us know.* <https://healthy-kids.com.au/parents/children-hydration>At school, we follow the 10 A Day for Mental Health to help us to be healthy. How many of these can you do each day at home? |

**School Games**

We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded a silver school games award. We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded a silver school games award.We are very excited to have been awarded the Silver School Games Mark. This award recognises our commitment to ensuring all children have at least 60 active minutes for each child, each week. It also notes how our school creates positive sport experiences by ensuring physical activity and competition provision is designed with clear intent and outcomes for children. Then how these positive experiences support the development of our children and educate them. We look forward to another great year of sport at our school!

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**Collective Worship Activity**
This term we will be focussing in school on the value of Creativity. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together. If the children bring back something that you have done at home linked to the Collective Worship activity, or can talk about a discussion they’ve had at home linked to it, then Mrs Gray will award them with a new special sticker.

