

THE BROOK BROADCAST

JUST A BIT LONGER!

This week we heard Boris Johnson, our Prime Minister, announce that schools will not open more widely after half term as first hoped. Instead, it is hoped that it will be safe for schools to bring back more children around Monday 8th March 2021, but this is still dependent on the health data and the pressure on NHS capacity. The government have however promised us all that we will be given at least two weeks notice to prepare for a return to face-to-face education for all children.

Although not totally unexpected, all staff at Brook Infant School and Nursery felt a deep sadness on hearing this because we simply want all of our community back together again. However, we also understand that these extreme measures are necessary in order to keep everyone as safe as possible.

We commit to continuing to provide our home learning offer to you all via Tapestry over the coming weeks, obviously ensuring we all take a pause for Half Term.

We are truly grateful for the many messages and emails we have received from families expressing how much they like the home learning offered and how much it is helping them to understand how to best help their children. It really helps the whole team to remain buoyant when we hear our work is helping our community. There will be a governors questionnaire coming out shortly about home learning. We really applaud all of our families supporting learning at home because we understand what a challenge this is.

Next week is 'Mental Health Awareness Week' and, although we are always try to be mindful, of everyone's well-being, this encourages us to focus on this area. There will be more information coming through the year groups, but we felt it was the right time to remind everybody to remember to be kind to yourselves. Find a pattern that works for you. If you miss a film or even a day due to home commitments, simply move on, do not feel you should catch up and try to not become stressed about it. Sometimes life has a way of taking us on a different path and currently we have to do what is right for our families.

Remember, if you are feeling worried or stressed, you can get in contact with us via **support@brookinfant.school**. We do not promise to have a 'magic wand', but sometimes just talking helps; sometimes we may be able to offer some practical advice; sometimes we may be able to signpost you to a group or agency that can offer support; but whatever happens we always promise to listen.

WELL-BEING WEDNESDAY

As I have already mentioned, next week is 'Mental Health Week' and due to how challenging things are for many of our families, we are going to have a 'Well-Being Wednesday' across the whole school and nursery in order to raise the profile of the importance of good mental health.

The teachers from the different year groups will communicate more information about this next week via Tapestry, but try to take time to focus on your families well-being and maybe plan to do something that is good for the soul together. Why not have a lazy morning; eat a special breakfast; go for a long walk; play a board game as a family; or watch a movie. Perhaps do something that is in nature and does not involve anyone being 'plugged in'.

Whatever you do, do something that makes you feel good. In this current challenge the most important thing is for us to be kind ... kind to ourselves and kind to each other.



SAFE IN SUSSEX

We have been asked to share this information about 'Safe in Sussex' with you all.

If you or anyone you know is struggling at this time, there is help for you.

If you are unsure about contacting a service like this, but need to talk to someone, simply contact us at school. We are always available to talk and listen and can make contacts for you.

We don't want anyone to suffer in silence.



OUR TABLE TOP LIBRARY

It was again lovely to see many of our families come along to use the 'Table Top Library' this week.

Our pop up library gives us the chance to see our families, have a chat and also gives children a chance to change their books.

Please remember that our 'Table Top Library' will be open every Thursday morning from 09:30 until 11:00. We will send a text if the library has to be postponed due to wet weather.



LATERAL FLOW DEVICE (LFD) TESTING

All staff begin our LFD testing on Monday morning. All families with children in school should have received a letter about this recently, but we wanted to inform you all of the official starting date.

We have tried to plan our testing programme to have minimal impact on our families, so we are going for a Monday morning, as no-one in the bubble had contact with each other 48 hours before that time, and therefore this test would not result in a bubble closure regardless of outcome. The positive member of staff would obviously have to isolate.

Our second test will be conducted on a Wednesday evening and we will commit to sharing the news about any necessary bubble closure that same evening. This would not be until about 21:00 due to the timings of the test, but we ask families to keep a look out for any emails from school around this time.

We hope that in reality no staff test positive, but nothing can be guaranteed.



REMEMBER WE ARE HERE!



As we keep saying, if things gets tricky, try **NOT** to worry and do **NOT** suffer in silence. We are here to help and even if we cannot help directly we can signpost you to people and agencies who might be able to. Simply email **support@brookinfant.school**.

You are all amazing and our children are very lucky.

Keep smiling and keep learning with love and laughter.

IMPORTANT DATES

We do not profess to know what might be happening in one week, let alone one term, but here is what could happen!

Half Term – Monday 15th to Friday 19th February 2021

Monday 22nd February 2021 – Inset Day

Monday 7th June 2021 – Inset Day

