



09.12.2021

## Update: December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you are all keeping well and that you are all looking forward to a peaceful and relaxing family Christmas. I know the staff in school are more than ready for the break as we have not had a full complement of staff since June! People have had to step in a great deal and we have often had up to 8 staff absent at a time. It has really not been an easy term but we are almost through it. I am so grateful to you all for your kind words, support and encouragement of the staff over this time; thank you so very much.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday, I am sure that you will be concerned about the school performances next week and whether or not they will go ahead. At the moment, there is nothing in the current guidance that affects us in school and so we intend to continue with our plans to stage live Nativities and Big Sings next week. However, Exit Points (visiting the classrooms) have been cancelled. Big Sing for Years 3/4 and Years 5/6 will go ahead outside on the back playground, so please remember your coats. We feel that the number of adults circulating in school felt like an unnecessary risk and so **Exit Points for all children are now cancelled**. We know that this will disappoint some of you and that you have had little sight of your child's learning for some time. We are working on a digital/ remote solution to address this.

To confirm, the timings for **BIG SING** are:

**Years 3/4: 2.15pm** - you can take children & siblings home after if you wish

**Year 5/6: 2.45pm** - you can take children & siblings home after if you wish

**Entry/Exit will be through the BITT/Breakfast & After School Club gate.**

The nativities will take place in church with as much space as we can muster between parents and we ask that no more than 2 adults attend per pupil. All adults must wear a mask and you must return a negative lateral flow test before coming to the performance. Could I also request that if you have even the mildest of symptoms to please stay at home.

We are all desperate not to allow Covid to ruin Christmas for everyone but we are also aware of how much you all love to see the children perform at Christmas so please help us to keep everyone as safe as we can. If the situation changes over the coming days we may still need to revise our plans and cancel the performances but for now, they are going ahead.

Tomorrow is **Christmas Jumper day** in aid of Save the Children. Please make your £1 payment via ScoPay. If you are financially stretched, please don't worry. Just send your little one in Christmas finery anyway, we don't want anyone to miss out but the donations will all be sent directly to a very worthwhile cause so please donate if you can. Tomorrow is also **Christmas celebration lunch**. We moved away from Christmas dinner again this year as the children seemed to enjoy this more last year and there was certainly less waste. We will still make it feel as festive as possible despite not having a traditional turkey dinner.

Tomorrow, Monday and Tuesday we will be running a few stalls after school to raise money for our school BSA and also to support our charity work in Rwanda. These goods would normally be sold at the Christmas fair but sadly Covid has spoiled that again this year. The scarves and gloves that are on sale are completely unique and hand made by our lovely Mrs Keene, a stalwart of our school for many years. The scarves are thicker and wider than those she produced last year and make tremendous stocking fillers at £5 per item, they are outstanding value and go a long way to helping our BSA do more for our pupils. Our Rwanda stall will have some hand made items as well as a few very special packs of handmade Christmas cards made by a Rwandan women's collective.





# Bransgore Church of England Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mr. Paul Brown



Cards are priced at £5 per pack. There will be some delicious chocolate santa sleighs priced at about £2 so please do have a look and buy if you can. Again, they would make lovely stocking fillers. All proceeds will go to supporting education projects in Rwanda.

Please could I ask that you take extra care when walking to and from school. We have had several reports of very near misses in the traffic on the school run. We have had at least two parents clipped by the wing mirrors of moving vehicles and this could be catastrophic if it were a child being clipped. Please remember how narrow the pavements are and discourage children from getting too far ahead or running on the pavements. I am also aware that some of the older children can be silly and push and shove each other near the road. Please talk to pupils in Year 5 and 6 about this as we will withdraw the right for pupils to walk home without an adult if they are putting others at risk. On these dark, wet evenings we need to be extra careful, wear bright jackets or fluorescent strips and be vigilant so we don't have a tragedy, especially as we no longer benefit from a school crossing patrol.

Please remember all children must be collected by an adult from any after school club now that the darker evenings are here.

Can we also please take this opportunity to remind you of the following:

- When you enter the school please put a mask on.
- If a family member has Covid please lateral flow test daily before coming into school.
- Doors open at 8.40 and close at 8.55am. There are a large number of children arriving late which is very disruptive to them and others. Please get your child in in plenty of time to give them the best possible start to the day.
- Dogs are not allowed on the school site so please refrain from bringing them in to the playground and pathways.

Finally, Christmas is a wonderful and fun time of the year but we know that it can also cause a lot of financial and emotional stress and worry and this year, probably more than ever before, there is a lot of pressure on families. If you feel under pressure or that you will be hard pressed this Christmas, please let us know, in confidence. There is a lot we can do to help so please let us know. We want everyone to have the best possible Christmas.

I hope that we can perform for you next week and I look forward to seeing you all at our stalls after school on Friday, Monday and Tuesday.

Best wishes,

Mr. Brown

