



Rotary Club of
Chipping Sodbury

November 2017

END POLIO NOW

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In the UK polio, a disease that can paralyse its victims, is thankfully a thing of the past. During the past 30 years a worldwide campaign supported by WHO, Bill and Melinda Gates and Rotary International has had an ambitious programme to completely eliminate polio from the world. From the initial 125 countries where polio occurred only 2 countries remain where this disease is common, Pakistan and Afghanistan. In Nigeria the disease has almost been eliminated but a few cases have been reported during the past year or so. Until polio has been completely eradicated in every country it could come back and children anywhere could potentially be at risk of contracting the disease.

Chipping Sodbury Rotary Club is taking part in the *End Polio Now* campaign which is aimed at raising the public's awareness of this disease and providing the necessary funds to eradicate polio from the world. Further facts about polio and this campaign can be found at <https://my.rotary.org/en/take-action/end-polio>

Your school is supporting *End Polio Now* in the following way. Sometime during the next few weeks three members of Chipping Sodbury Rotary Club will attend a school assembly (or equivalent) and give a short illustrated talk about polio. Sometime after the talk the students will be invited to plant some crocus bulbs in a grassy area in the school grounds. The bulbs will produce purple flowers in the following spring. The colour purple is chosen because in the overseas vaccination programme a child's finger is marked purple to indicate that they have been vaccinated.

This week we are organising a collection for *End Polio Now* through the school and every penny you give will go towards this programme. Please be as generous as you can!

Thank you.

Dr Iain Dunnett, Barry Riley and John Wells

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