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Head Teacher: Mrs. F. Hamilton B.Ed (Hons)

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2017

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to all of our families and may we extend a special welcome to all our new children and their families. The children have made a great start to the term and we are looking forward to an exciting school year ahead.

Just to let our new parents know, we publish a monthly newsletter like this on the first Friday of every month, so please look out for it. If parents mislay their newsletters, newsletters are also posted on the school's website and spare copies are always available by the parents' notice board in the entrance foyer. We do also send separate letters at other times during the course of the term, so please check your child's book bag and the website regularly.

Parents will also find a range of information on the school's website www.coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk – letters and updates are regularly uploaded to the site to ensure parents have up to date access to information.

With this being the first newsletter of the new academic year there is a lot of general information to give parents, especially our new parents.

New Classes



You will be pleased to hear that the children have all settled quickly in to their new classes. It is lovely to have them back. The classes this year are as follows:

Class 1	-	Mrs. Gwynne
Class 2	-	Miss. Roberts
Class 3	-	Mrs. Grindle
Class 4	-	Mrs. Adams
Class 5	-	Miss. Screen
Class 6	-	Mr. Hook

Head Teacher	-	Mrs. Hamilton
Administrators	-	Mrs. Nash & Mrs. Edwards

In addition Mrs Peters, Mrs Morris and Mrs Brown will be teaching throughout the school to provide non-contact time for teachers for various reasons. All of the teachers receive time out of class for planning, preparation and assessment purposes each week, so these teachers will soon become very familiar figures to our new parents.

For the information of our new families, Mrs Nash works in the School Office Monday - Friday each week, with Mrs Edwards working every day except Monday.

Family Support Worker



Mrs Leanne Rawlings also works in school as Family Support Worker. Leanne will be working on Mondays and Tuesdays until 2.00p.m. this term. Should parents wish to speak to her about anything, please ask at the School Office. Parents will find a flyer attached explaining her role.

Site Entrance Gates

As parents will have noticed, we have had some alterations made to our entrance gates over the Summer holidays to improve our site safety even further, with automated gates having been installed. There is still some minor work to be completed over the next week on the Holcot Road gates before we can introduce the changes fully. We shall inform parents of the new arrangements once the work is complete; please look out for a letter to follow with further details.



Class Topic Plans & Homework

Please find attached a class topic planner which gives parents an outline of the work which their child will be covering in class this term. We hope that you will find this informative and helpful. If required, spare copies of the topic planners are always available in the entrance foyer or via the website.

Our class topics this term are as follows:

Classes 1 and 2	Marvellous Me!
Classes 3 and 4	Bears, Bears Everywhere!
Classes 5 and 6	Adventures in the Great Outdoors

The staff would be delighted to hear from any parents who have artefacts or expertise relating to their child's topic which would support the children's learning. Please also note that each term this topic planner includes a section explaining how parents will be able to further support their children's learning at home.

Parents in Classes 3-6 will also find attached homework choices for the children for their new topics (children in our Reception classes will receive homework next term once they are all in school full time). The staff were delighted with the homework that the children completed last term; thank you once again for your support with this. We shall be keeping our 'homework walls' this year and look forward to sharing the children's fabulous work with their friends and teachers again this term!

Educational Visits

Please find attached a letter with consent slip for local educational visits for this academic year. We would be grateful if you could return this to your child's class teacher as soon as possible.



Internet & Digital Images Consent Forms

Reception parents will find attached explanatory letters with return slips which we require as soon as possible (Acceptable Use Policy Agreement forms & Use of Digital/Video Images consent form). We shall retain these details in the School Office for your child's three years at the Infant School should you wish to alter them at a later date.



Morning Routine and Attendance

It is important that your child arrives promptly every day and that they use the correct entrance door. Children should wait outside classrooms with their parents until 8.50 a.m. when the teachers will open the doors to meet them. Classroom doors/outside area entrance gates will be locked at 9.00 a.m. prompt, when all registers will be taken.

Any parent who is later than the 9.00 a.m. start will be required to use the main entrance door and register their lateness with a reason at the School Office. The local authority will be informed of all lateness and monitor regularity of lateness alongside the school.

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school please could you inform the teacher or the School Office as early as possible (preferably by 10.00 a.m.) on the first day of absence - telephone number as listed above. As part of our attendance procedures Mrs. Nash or Mrs. Edwards may contact you via telephone or text if we are unsure of a reason for absence.

Please note that we check attendances carefully and reward excellent attendance each term. Referrals may be made for persistent absence or lateness (the Government's persistent absence indicator being attendance below 90%), with parents possibly receiving a fine as a result.

Sickness/Diarrhoea

May we remind parents that it is essential that children who have been sick (vomiting/diarrhoea) should stay away from school for at least 48 hours following their last bout of sickness/diarrhoea to limit the spread of infection to others, in accordance with Health Protection Agency guidance. Thank you to all parents for following this advice.

Holiday Absence Regulations

Department for Education legislation states that Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence for holiday during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Parents will find full guidelines in our policy on the school's website, or alternatively may ask for a copy at the School Office.

Term Dates



A list of term dates for the year is attached. The In-Service days that we have allocated for this year are also included. All term dates are in conjunction with the Junior School and Coalway Early Years.

Administration of Medicine

We prefer not to give medicine to children during the course of the school day but, if it is absolutely essential that your child receives medication, arrangements may be made for staff to administer the necessary medicine through agreement with Mrs Hamilton. For legal and safety reasons, parents will be required to complete and sign a short agreement form for the school to administer the medicine – all enquiries should be directed to the School Office.



'Cool Milk' at School

This scheme is run by an independent organisation. Fresh milk is delivered daily to school. The children are automatically registered by us ready for September and will receive milk free of charge until they are 5. At this point the School Office will contact you about registering, as parents are then required to pay for milk if their child wants it. Any Year 1 & 2 parents who wish to register their child and haven't done so already, please ask for a form at the School Office and return it directly to Cool Milk (the address can be found at the bottom of the form). This organisation also has a website for parents' convenience - www.coolmilk.com.

Snack time

The children receive a healthy snack every morning at playtime, provided through our involvement in the Schools Fruit and Vegetable Scheme – for example an apple, pear, carrots, satsuma, banana, sugar snap peas, pineapple slices. Should parents wish to provide their own snack for their child to eat, we would stress that this should be a similarly healthy option only.



School Dinners

All of our children within school are entitled to a hot cooked meal every day at no cost to parents. This is part of the Government's 'Universal Infant Free School Meals' programme which provides free daily school meals to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils across the country.

Fresh meals are cooked daily by 'Caterlink' (our meals provider) at the Junior School and served in our dinner hall. The children choose which meal they would like from the menu each morning, with their teachers, which we then order from the kitchens for that lunchtime. Parents will find details of this term's dinner menu attached and also on the school's website - this runs for terms 1 and 2. Should anyone mislay their menu, spare copies are available from the entrance foyer and a master copy is always posted on the website and the parents' notice board in the entrance foyer.

All parents of our Reception children should register on-line for their child to receive free meals. Please register at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals. Children may then decide whether to take meals on a day-to-day basis.

Please don't hesitate to contact the School Office should you have any queries regarding school dinners.

Water Bottles

A reminder that the children need their water bottles in school every day. For Health and Safety reasons it is important that the bottles are cleaned and the water changed on a daily basis. We ask for your co-operation in ensuring that the bottles are cleaned and returned to school the next day. If the bottle is lost you may purchase another from the School Office at a cost of £1.05, with replacement bottle caps also available at a cost of 30p.



Uniform Sales

School sweatshirts and other items are available for sale from Mrs. Nash or Mrs. Edwards in the School Office. Current prices are as follows:

Waterproof Fleece £18.50Sweatshirt £8.25..... Cardigans £9.75.....Book Bag £3.75.....Dap Bag £2.80.....Cap £2.00 ...Water bottle £1.05 ... Water bottle caps £0.30

Name Labelling Plea! Could we ask you to ensure that any item belonging to your child is clearly named. This includes all clothing, PE kits and coats, school bags, sandwich boxes and drink bottles.

Headlice

Information on Head Lice is published in the newsletter at the beginning of every term in line with the advice issued by the Gloucestershire Health Protection Unit. **It is each parents' responsibility to check hair at least once a week and to treat if necessary.** Please find below Local Authority information which we advise parents to read carefully.

The advice, briefly, is as follows:-

- An attempt should be made to remove the head lice by repeated combing of wet hair using a plastic head louse detector comb. Combs are available from pharmacies. Plastic head louse detector combs must be used.
- If this fails to clean the headlice infestations, parents should contact the Health Centre (0300 4218855) for a recommended lotion or further advice can be obtained from the school nurse team on the same number.

It is most important that

- you check your child(ren)'s hair on a regular basis and follow this advice
- long, loose hair should be tied back to reduce the risk.

Site Notices



Parking & Safety

May we remind you, and also inform our new parents, that parents should park outside the school site to deliver and collect children. To ensure the safety of everyone on site the entrance gates are locked throughout the school day and unlocked for a period of time at the beginning and end of the school day to ensure authorised access only (Further details regarding our new gates to follow soon).

Cars should not park on the double yellow lines at the entrance to the school and along Coalway Road, or drop off within this area, to help us ensure everyone's safety.

We would also ask that you help us to continue our good relationships with our neighbours by not parking in front of driveways or on grass verges on Coalway or Holcot Roads or the Eskimarket's mobile home park.

To further ensure the children's safety, a Road Traffic Warden is on duty from 8.30 a.m. – 9.10 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. – 3.40 p.m. daily – either Mrs. Moore or Mrs Edmonds. Please could you ensure that the children cross the road with our 'lollipop ladies' - it is essential for everyone to use the same place to cross for safety.

Parents are asked to closely supervise their children whilst delivering or collecting children from school, and ensure that their children walk on the pavement inside the school gates and not on the roadway, ensuring the safety of children and staff.



Children should dismount from scooters or bikes whilst on the school grounds and pavements.



Dogs

May we also remind parents that we do not allow dogs on site for health and safety reasons.



No Smoking

In accordance with the Local Authority policy the school site is a non-smoking area.



Please could parents inform other family members who collect the children from school of the above notices. Thank you.

Coalway Kids' Club: After School/Breakfast Club

Before and after school care is provided by Coalway Kids' Club at the following rates, payment in advance: (For the information of Reception parents, this is the building on the right hand side as you come through the school gates)

8.00 - 9.00 a.m.	£3.65 including breakfast
3.00 - 4.00 p.m.	£3.65
3.00 - 4.30 p.m.	£4.75
3.00 - 5.30 p.m.	£6.95

If you have any queries or would like to book a session, please contact Mrs. April Gordon on 839103 between 8.00 a.m. - 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m. or leave a message on the answer phone and a member of staff will get back to you.

Wake and Shake



We shall be starting this popular club again on Wednesday 4th October, once the children have all settled in to school. All children across the school are welcome to attend this club, where the children exercise to music to 'wake and shake' themselves up for the day! The club takes place at 8.30 a.m. - 8.50 a.m. Parents may bring their children to the entrance foyer for 8.30 a.m. prompt where a member of staff will collect them. At 8.50 a.m. the children will be taken to their classes.

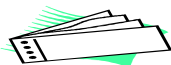
Year 2 Clubs

Our Year 2 children will be given the opportunity to take part in a number of after school clubs, starting in Term 2. Details will be sent to parents later this term.

'Let's Get Cooking' Club

Year 1 and 2 pupils will be given the opportunity to take part in this very popular after school club later this term - details to follow in October.

Collections



Thank you to all who donated vouchers last year. Our final Sainsbury's Active Kids total was an amazing 2,600 tokens, with which we were delighted to order a variety of PE equipment for the children. Thank you for your support with this collection.

Dates specific to this term

Parents' Evening

The first of our parents' evenings will be held at the end of this month. Information about booking appointments will be sent home nearer the time, with parents able to book these for either Wednesday 27th September 3.15 - 5.30 p.m. or Thursday 28th September 3.15 - 7.30 p.m. Please don't miss this important opportunity to discuss how your child is settling in to their new class.

Book Fair

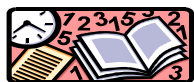


A Scholastic Book Fair will be in school 28th September - 3rd October. Full details to follow nearer the time.



Harvest Festival

We shall be holding our Harvest Festival on Friday 6th October at 1.30 p.m. to which all parents are invited. The children will be asked to bring in contributions of produce on Friday morning. Immediately after the service the produce will be sold and all monies raised donated to charity - details to follow.



Scholastic Book Club

From time to time we offer parents the chance to buy books through the school Scholastic Book Club. The school earns commission on all books purchased. Please find this month's leaflet attached - any orders should be returned to the school office by Friday 22nd September. Thank you.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 27 th	Parents' evening	3.15 - 5.30 p.m.
Thursday 28 th	Parents' evening	3.15 - 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 28th -Tuesday 3rd October Scholastic Book Fair

OCTOBER

Wednesday 4 th	Wake & Shake starts	
Friday 6 th	Harvest Festival & Sale	1.30 p.m.

Tuesday 17 th	Photograph Day
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Thursday 19 th	End of Term
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Monday 30 th	Start of Term 2
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COALWAY COMMUNITY INFANT SCHOOL
Child and Family Support Service
Information, Advice & Support for Parents, Carers and Children



CONTACT: Leanne Rawlings, Family Support Worker,
Coalway Community Infant School, Telephone 01594 833457,
Monday 8.45a.m. - 2.15p.m. & Tuesday 9.45a.m.-1.45p.m.

What is the Child and Family Support Service?



The Family Support Worker works across the Coalway Schools to offer support to children, parents, carers and grandparents in times of need.

Individual work can be carried out with parents, as well as 1:1 or small group work with the children. The work covered may involve social skills, self-esteem, anger management, bereavement, parental separation and individual worries.

The Family Support Worker can also offer information and advice, as well as signpost to other agencies.

If you wish to receive support for yourself or your child please contact the School Office and ask for the Family Support Worker.

When things change



All families experience change. There are times when changes beyond our control can affect how we feel; for example, the changes that can come about through a loss or bereavement in your family. We are here should you need support through these difficult times.

Parents and carers coffee morning



Every Wednesday morning a coffee morning is held at Coalway Kids Club from 9-10am with a warm welcoming atmosphere and a chance to meet and talk to other parents and carers in a friendly, informal setting.

If you would like to join us please do! You are most welcome.



Foodbank

... A reminder that the school has access to the Forest Food Bank. This is a resource where we are able to support local families through the distribution of vouchers. The voucher is taken to the local Food Bank in Coleford and exchanged for food. Families are entitled to support if they meet Food Bank criteria e.g. this could be due to benefit changes or delays, redundancy or debts.

What Happens Next?



If you decide to take up the offer of support for your child/family, please speak to class teachers or staff at the School Office and let them know that you would like me to contact you. You can make an appointment to visit me at school at a time convenient to you or I can visit you at home if you would prefer.

After talking about the problems you are facing, together we will draw up an action plan. This will cover practical areas of support such as setting boundaries, behaviour management and communicating with your child.

I hope that with our support, you and your child will feel that their time in school and at home is happier.



TERM DATES 2017-2018

TERM 1 – 2017

In-Service	-	Monday 4th September
School Begins	-	Tuesday 5 th September (Classes 3-6) Wednesday 6 th September (Classes 1 and 2)
School Ends	-	Thursday 19 th October
In-Service	-	Friday 20th October

TERM 2 – 2017

School Begins	-	Monday 30 th October
In-Service	-	Monday 20th November
School Ends	-	Tuesday 19 th December

TERM 3 – 2018

School Begins	-	Wednesday 3 rd January
School Ends	-	Friday 9 th February

TERM 4 – 2018

School Begins	-	Monday 19 th February
School Ends	-	Thursday 29 th March

TERM 5 – 2018

School Begins	-	Monday 16 th April
Bank Holiday	-	Monday 7 th May
School Ends	-	Friday 25 th May

TERM 6 – 2018

School Begins	-	Monday 4 th June
School Ends	-	Friday 20 th July
In-Service	-	Monday 23rd July Tuesday 24th July

