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NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2021

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to all of our families and may we extend a special welcome to all our new children and their families. It is wonderful to have the children back in school and they have already settled quickly in to their new classes. They 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 termly newsletter like this on the first Friday of every term, so please look out for it via your ParentMail emails. Newsletters are also posted on the school's website. We do also send separate letters at other times during the course of the term, so please check your ParentMail account, 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



As mentioned above, the children have made a fantastic start to the new school year. They are thoroughly enjoying being back together again, getting to know their new teachers and exploring their new learning environments. Our focus over the initial few weeks is on ensuring they are happy and settling in to their new classrooms and the school routine.

The classes this year are as follows:

Class 1	-	Mrs. Gwynne
Class 2	-	Miss. Roberts
Class 3	-	Mrs. Grindle
Class 4	-	Mrs. Arnold & Mrs. Nicholls
Class 5	-	Mrs. Burke
Class 6	-	Mr. Hook

Head Teacher	-	Mrs. Hamilton
Deputy Headteacher	-	Mrs. Burke
Special Needs Co-ordinator	-	Miss. Roberts
Administrators	-	Mrs. Nash & Mrs. Edwards

In addition, Mrs Nicholls, Mrs Brown and Mrs Morris will be teaching in particular classes 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 - Thursday each week, with Mrs Edwards working Tuesday - Friday.



Family Support Worker Miss Lisa Mudway also works in school as our Family Support Worker, Monday to Thursday 8.45 a.m. – 3.15 p.m. and Friday 8.45 a.m. – 12.45 p.m. Should parents wish to speak to her about anything, please ask at the School Office. In line with our COVID arrangements for this term, Lisa will not be able to meet parents in school just yet but will be available via the telephone or via Teams.

Lisa is able to carry out individual work with parents as well as 1:1 work with the children. The work covered may involve social skills, self-esteem, anger management, bereavement, parental separation and individual worries. Lisa can offer information and advice, as well as signpost to other agencies. Parents will find a flyer attached explaining her role.



Class Topic Plans & Home learning

Parents' class topic planners have been sent home today (and will be added to the Class page of the website), to give 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. 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.

Our class topics this term are as follows:

Classes 1 and 2	What Makes Me a Me!
Classes 3 and 4	Super Duper You and Marvellous Me!
Classes 5 and 6	Let's Explore 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 further support the children's learning.

Parents in Classes 3-6 have also been sent options of home learning choices for the children for their new topics. (Children in our Reception classes will receive home learning next term once they are all in school full time). Please send in all home learning that is completed; 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!

Reading at home

We will be continuing our 'READ' initiative this year (**Read Everyday And Discover**) to encourage the children to read regularly and develop a love of reading. Please look out for the letter in your child's book bag for full details. We hope that you will enjoy reading at home with your child and collecting all of our special badges again this year and thank you in advance for your continued support.

We will be sending reading books home this year, instead of using Bug Club. Teachers will keep track of how many times your child reads at home and will stamp their Smiley face bookmark (which will be kept in school) each time they have read – up to one stamp per day. When their bookmark is stamped the maximum amount of times your child will then receive a smiley face enamel badge which they can wear with pride on their school sweatshirt. These are coloured faces this year! We hope they will be able to collect them all, feel proud of this achievement and gain confidence in their reading abilities.

Purple Mash

Parents in Classes 1 & 2 have been sent their individual log-in details for our online learning space, 'Purple Mash'. (Children in Classes 3-6 should continue to use their log-ins from last academic year). This is an award winning, creative online learning space which the school has purchased for every child in school to access at home. We hope that you and your child will enjoy it! Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher if you require any further help or information in using the site.



PE Days

As previously notified, we will be continuing our Class 'PE days' in school this year, starting the week commencing 13th September.

On their PE day, the children will need to come to school dressed in PE kit that is suitable for them to work in both indoors and outside: We suggest joggers/leggings, sweatshirts/hoodies (no slogans please), T-shirt, trainers, a warm, waterproof coat, a hat and gloves.

The children's PE days are as follows:

- Classes 1 and 2: Friday
- Class 3: Wednesday
- Class 4: Thursday
- Class 5: Tuesday
- Class 6: Monday



Educational Visits

Next week parents will receive a consent form via ParentMail for local educational visits for this academic year. We would be grateful if you could submit this as soon as possible.

Parents in Classes 1 and 2 will also receive a Digital Video Images Consent form and a Pupil Acceptable Use Policy via Parent Mail which we would appreciate parents returning as soon as possible. Thank you.



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 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 will be rewarding 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.

Term Dates



A list of term dates for the year is available on the school website. [Click here for Term Dates](#) The In-Service days that we have allocated for this year are also included.

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 from the School Office.

Administration of Medicine

We are unable to administer any medicines (such as anti-biotics) to children at the current time due to COVID procedures. Parents will need to administer medicines out of school hours or telephone the Office directly to arrange to administer medicine themselves (outside of the building) if absolutely necessary.

Medical forms (e.g. for asthmatic children) are available on the school website and should be completed and sent to the School Office via email wherever possible. (For legal and safety reasons, parents are required to complete and sign this short agreement form).



School dinners

All 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 will be served in our dinner hall for Classes 3-6 or in the classrooms for Classes 1 and 2 this term. Children may bring a packed lunch from home if they would prefer.

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 have received this term's dinner menu via ParentMail, which is also available on the school's website - this runs for terms 1 and 2.

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 if you have not already done so. 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.



'Cool Milk' at School

This scheme is run by an independent organisation. Fresh milk is delivered daily to school. The Reception children are automatically registered by us ready for September and will receive milk free of charge until they are 5. If you would like your child to continue after this, please contact Cool Milk directly. Any Year 1 & 2 parents who wish to register their child and haven't done so already, please visit the Cool Milk website directly- 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.

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 parents want to replace their child's water bottle, we can send water bottles directly to classrooms if parents ask us in advance and send the money into class in a sealed envelope, price £1.20.

N.B. Please note, your child's water bottle should only be filled with water.

Parent Pay

We have not planned any educational visits other than in the immediate locality this term and therefore parents have not been sent information about setting up ParentPay accounts in order to pay for transport. This will be sent as necessary later in the year.



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 £19.50 Sweatshirt £8.95..... Cardigans £9.95..... Book Bag £3.75.....
Dap Bag £2.80.....Cap £2.00 ...Water bottle £1.20 ... Water bottle caps £0.30

We also keep a stock of good quality 'nearly new' uniform in school, with items available for up to 50p. Please contact the School Office for further information if interested.

Free School Uniform

From this September we are able to offer any child eligible for Free School Meals a school jumper or cardigan free of charge. This offer may be redeemed at any time during the academic year, September 2021 – July 2022. The school will be informed by GCC of children's eligibility once parents have applied (see eligibility criteria below).

FSM eligibility

Your child might be eligible for free school meals if you receive 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 - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

If you think your child may be eligible please apply through this link

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

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

Site Notices

For the information of our new parents:

To maximise safety, security and safeguarding across the school site we have automated entrance gates on Coalway and Holcot Roads. 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.

Coalway Road & Holcot Road gates: The site entrance gates are closed throughout the day, with the pedestrian gates opened **10 minutes** before either end of the day to enable parents to collect their children, i.e. 8.40 a.m. and 2.50 p.m.

Should anyone need to collect their child or access the site during the school day, the main entrance gates on Coalway Road have an intercom system – please just press the button for the provider you require (Coalway Early Years, Coalway Infant, Coalway Junior, Coalway Kids Club or the Junior School Canteen). When leaving the site, there is a silver press pad – please 'press pad to exit' and the gate should automatically open and close behind you.



Parking on site is restricted to staff only. Parents should park outside the school site to deliver and collect children, ensuring that they do not park on the double yellow lines or drop their children off in the school gateway. We would also ask that parents 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.

Parents are asked to closely supervise their children at the beginning and end of the school day whilst waiting on site for staff to open the classroom doors and also whilst waiting for Junior siblings. Staff cars may also be arriving/leaving site at these times.

To further ensure the children's safety, a Road Traffic Warden is on duty from 8.30 a.m. – 9.10 a.m. and 2.45p.m. – 3.30 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.



Children coming in to school on scooters or bikes should dismount 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.

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.

Coalway Kids' Club: After School/Breakfast Club

Please contact Coalway Kids Club direct with any enquiries regarding before or after school care. (For the information of our new parents, this is the building on the right hand side as you come through the school gates) Phone: 01594 839103 Or email: coalwaykidsclub@tiscali.co.uk

Dates for this term...

Parents' Evening

We will be holding parents' evenings later this term to give parents an opportunity to meet their child's class teacher and find out how they have settled into their new class. Dates and details of booking arrangements to follow.

School Photographs

We have made a provisional date for Academy Portraits to visit school to take individual school photographs on 14th October. Details will again be finalised as the term progresses.

Term 1 ends 3.00pm Wednesday 20th October

Term 2 starts Monday 1st November

School Arrangements due to Coronavirus

Our 'Return to school September 2021' letter sent to parents before the start of term details the safety arrangements we have in place in school this term.

We will be monitoring these arrangements closely during the course of the term, as everyone gradually starts mixing more widely and our number of contacts increase, and will keep you informed should any additional measures be required.

As a continued safety measure, the School Office will remain working virtually this term and staff's direct contact with adults from outside of school will remain limited during this initial transition period. However, should parents have any important messages or queries for staff please don't hesitate to continue to telephone or email the School Office directly. All queries should be directed to Mrs Nash or Mrs Edwards by telephone (01594 833457) or email admin@coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk. Communication will continue via ParentMail and we recommend all parents download the App for ease of use.

For everyone's safety, we would ask parents to be particularly vigilant in checking for the main 3 Coronavirus symptoms. **If a child/parent/family member in the household presents with any symptoms of coronavirus, check the NHS website and book a test** as soon as possible and keep us informed of reasons for absence and of test results.

Please remember that from September:

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months (i.e. all of our pupils in school)
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). (N.B. Please note that this should be a PCR, not a Lateral Flow Test).

If an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test

- Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#). **They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19** (for example, they are required to quarantine).
- If anyone in school develops [COVID-19 symptoms](#), however mild, we will send them home and they should follow public health advice.



Family Support at Coalway Community Infant School



Hello, my name is Lisa and I am Coalway Community Infant School's Family Support Worker.

My role in school is to support children and their families in times of need.

I am able to offer support and advice to parents, grandparents and carers and also signpost and refer to other agencies for specialist support. We work with a range of other agencies and charities to provide support for our families.

I can offer individual or group work with children in school covering a range of topics such as self-esteem, anger management, bereavement, parental separation or individual worries.

During normal times I run a weekly coffee morning for parents/carers alongside the Family Support Workers from the Junior School. As a result of the pandemic this group is currently being run via Microsoft Teams on a Thursday morning at 9.30a.m.

As a school we work closely with the Forest Food Bank and can supply vouchers to any family in need of a little extra help.



How to get in touch

If you feel I can be of some support to you and your family, please contact the School Office or your child's Class Teacher and let them know you would like me to contact you. After talking your situation through, together we will draw up a plan which will address your needs.

Unfortunately at the current time, due to the pandemic restrictions, I am unable to hold face to face appointments with parents, though hope this will change in the coming months.

I look forward to hearing from you if I can be of any help at any point during your child's time at our school.

Lisa Mudway

Family Support Worker

Tel: 01594 833457

Hours of work: Monday-Thursday 8.45 a.m. – 3.15 p.m.
Friday 8.45 a.m. – 12.45 p.m.





TERM DATES 2021-22

TERM 1 – 2021

In-Service	-	Thursday 2nd September Friday 3rd September
School Begins	-	Monday 6 th September (Classes 3-6) Tuesday 7 th September (Classes 1 and 2)
School Ends	-	Wednesday 20 th October
In-Service	-	Thursday 21st October Friday 22nd October

TERM 2 – 2021

School Begins	-	Monday 1 st November
School Ends	-	Friday 17 th December

TERM 3 – 2022

School Begins	-	Tuesday 4 th January
School Ends	-	Friday 18 th February

TERM 4 – 2022

School Begins	-	Monday 28 th February
School Ends	-	Friday 8 th April

TERM 5 – 2022

School Begins	-	Monday 25 th April
Bank Holiday	-	Monday 2 nd May
School Ends	-	Friday 27 th May

TERM 6 – 2022

School Begins	-	Monday 6 th June
School Ends	-	Thursday 21 st July
In-Service	-	Friday 22nd July