



COALWAY COMMUNITY INFANT SCHOOL

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# Newsletter: January 2024

As this is our first newsletter of 2024 may we first wish all of our families a very



## Happy New Year!



We hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas break with family and friends. We are delighted to be back in school again and are looking forward to another busy term and year!



### Curriculum Overviews for Parents

These 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 can we remind you that we encourage all children to read or share a book, at least four times per week at home. The more children read the better reader they will become. We would love children to read for pleasure. Please support us by encouraging your child to read or look at a broad range of books at home, every day if possible.



### Attendance

Thank you to all parents who telephone or email to let us know of their child's absence. This is a significant help to the staff and ensures that appropriate absence records are kept for your child. If your child is unwell and cannot attend school please could you inform the School Office as early as possible (preferably by 9.00 a.m.). As part of our attendance procedures Mrs. Edwards or Mrs. Cornes may contact you via telephone or ParentMail if we are unsure of a reason for absence.

To raise parents' awareness of their child's attendance to date, we will be sending home a printout of their attendance. This identifies their percentage attendance since September and the number of authorised and unauthorised absences. Also listed is the number of sessions your child has attended - remember that there are two sessions per day, a morning and an afternoon session.

We will continue to monitor reasons for absence and regularity of lateness and absence carefully during the year. For parent's information, the Government figure for persistent absence is an attendance rate of below 90%.

We would also ask that all parents ensure we have 2 up to date contact details within the School Office to ensure that we are able to contact you in an emergency, such as your child becoming ill during the school day.

## School Intake and Junior Transfer September 2024



Reminder... applications for admission to the Infants and Junior School for September 2024 should be completed on-line by midnight Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

## Big Schools Birdwatch

We have registered to take part in the RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch this month and will let you know our results in due course!

## School Lunches Menu



Copies of the menu are available on the school website and School Office.

Please note that the Caterers are no longer providing a packed lunch option alongside the normal 3 choice menu. If your child will not eat any of the three choices, please provide them with a packed lunch from home. Packed lunches will still be provided for school trips.

## Christmas

We were very proud of our Reception children for producing such a fantastic concert for their parents and families last term, and also to Years 1 and 2 for their Carol singing. Well done children!

The children had a really enjoyable end of term, especially when Santa visited their parties with special individual gifts.

**Thank you!** We raised **£40** through our end of term Christmas Jumper Day for 'Save the Children'.

## Adverse Weather Conditions



As winter approaches, please can we remind you about our general procedures regarding possible school closure in the event of severe weather:

1. Closure of the school will be posted on the school website [www.coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk)
2. If there is heavy snowfall overnight you will be contacted by ParentMail by 8.15 a.m. the next day informing you of closure of the school.
3. If you have not received a ParentMail message you may check by telephoning the school after 8.30 a.m. to check if the school is open.
4. Listen to Radio Gloucestershire - FM 104.7 and/or Heart Gloucestershire (formerly Severn Sound) - FM 102.4; AM 774. They will give news about school closures.
5. Access the Gloucestershire website to view the list of schools that are closed [www.glosclosedschools.com](http://www.glosclosedschools.com)
6. It may be necessary for the school to close during the course of the day. In that case, it is very important that we have an emergency contact number as a ParentMail message will be sent in the first instance.



## Head Lice

Information on Head Lice is published in the newsletter at the beginning of every second term in line with the advice issued by the Gloucestershire Health Protection Unit. **It is each parent's 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 4218850) for a recommended lotion or further advice can be obtained from the school nurse via 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.

School gates open at 8.35 a.m. and close at 8.45. All children need to be in their classrooms by **8.45 a.m.** for register and ordering their lunch. Children arriving after the gate has closed, need to come to the school office to access their classroom.

If your child has any appointments i.e. Dentist, Doctor, Hospital please complete an absence from learning request form, these can be obtained from the school office, prior to the appointment. Please return the completed form to the school office.

## Term dates

School finishes for the holiday on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 3.15 pm.

There will be a Staff Inset Day on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February.

<b>Half Term – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b>
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Term 4 starts **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.**

Term dates for the remainder of this academic year are available on the school website.

## Site Notices

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. 8.35 a.m. and 3.05 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 grey 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.



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 or Vaping** 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.