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Head Teacher: Mrs Hayley Alliston

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2023

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 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. The classes this year are as follows:

Class 1	-	Mrs Savage
Class 2	-	Mrs Arnold and Mrs Roberts
Class 3	-	Miss Roberts
Class 4	-	Miss Virgo
Class 5	-	Mr Hook
Class 6	-	Mrs Goodland
Head Teacher	-	Mrs Alliston
Deputy Headteacher	-	Miss Virgo
Special Needs		
Co-ordinator	-	Miss Roberts
Family Support		
Worker	-	Lisa Mudway
Administrators	-	Mrs Cornes and Mrs Edwards

In addition, Mrs Nicholls and Mrs Grindle will be teaching 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.

For the information of our new families, Mrs Cornes works in the School Office Monday - Friday with Mrs Edwards working Monday - Thursday.



Family Support Worker

Lisa Mudway works in school as our Family Support Worker, Monday to Thursday 8.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

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.



Parent Planners

Parents' class planners are attached 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.

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.

Reading books will come home every night. Year 1 and Year 2 to read at least 4 times per week and Reception children 3 times a week please.

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 an enamel badge which they can wear with pride on their school sweatshirt. These are bronze, silver or gold stars this year! We hope they will be able to collect them all, feel proud of this achievement and gain confidence in their reading abilities.

PE Kit

To be brought into school at the start of the term and stay in school until the end of term. White T shirt, Black shorts, Black trainers or daps.



Educational Visits

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



Morning Routine and Attendance

School starts at 8.45 am. Gates/doors will be opened at 8.35 am.

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. When the teachers will open the doors to meet them. Classroom doors/outside area entrance gates will be locked at 8.45 am prompt, when all registers will be taken.

Any parent who is later than the 8.45 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 inform the School Office as early as possible on the first day of absence. As part of our attendance procedures Mrs. Cornes or Mrs. Edwards will contact you via telephone or via ParentMail if we are unsure of a reason for absence.

Please note that we check attendances carefully every day. Referrals may be made for persistent absence or lateness (the Government's persistent absence indicator being attendance below 90%),

Sickness/Diarrhoea

May we remind parents that it is essential that children who have been sick (vomiting/diarrhoea) should stay away from school for 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. Please note holidays are not an exceptional circumstance.

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 Alliston. 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.

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). If an inhaler or epi-pen is needed during the school day, please bring this into school with the completed medical 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 dining hall. Children may bring a packed lunch from home if they prefer. Please do not send chocolate or sweets in your child's lunch box.

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. This term's dinner menu is available on the school website. All parents of 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

Fruit time

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

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 and not juice or squash.



Uniform Sales

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

Sweatshirt £9.75..... Cardigans £10.75..... 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 'pre-loved' uniform in school, with items available for 50p. Please contact the School Office for further information.

Free School Uniform

From September we are able to offer any child eligible for Free School Meals 1 school jumper or cardigan free of charge. This offer may be redeemed at any time during the academic year, September 2023 – July 2024. 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.



Harvest Festival

We shall be holding our Harvest Festival on **Monday 23rd October at 2.30 p.m.** to which all parents are invited. The children will be asked to bring in contributions of tinned / packets on Monday 23rd October morning. The food collected will be donated to the Forest Food Bank.

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. 8.35 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 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.



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, their rates are listed below. (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: coalwaykidsclub22@gmail.com

7.30 – 8.45 a.m.

8.00 – 8.45 a.m.

3.15 - 4.00 p.m.

3.15 - 4.30 p.m.

3.15 – 5.30 p.m.

If you have any queries or would like to book a session, please contact Mrs. April Gordon on 839103.

Pre and after school care are also available from Greenwoods Nursery.

Dates for this term...**Parents' Evening**

We will be holding parents' evenings on the 18th and 19th October to give parents an opportunity to meet their child's class teacher and find out how they have settled into their new class. Details of booking arrangements to follow.

Flu vaccination

The School Nurse team will be in school on Thursday 19th October to undertake the nasal flu vaccination programme being offered to Gloucestershire schools this year. In order for your child to receive the immunisation, parents should complete the consent form sent home with your child. If the consent form is not returned your child will not be able to have the vaccine. Spare letters about the programme are available from the school office.

School Photographs

DSP Photography are visiting school on **Thursday 12th October** to take individual school photographs and siblings.

Term 1 ends 3.15pm Thursday 26th October

Term 2 starts Monday 6th November

Family Support at Coalway Community Infant School



Hello, my name is Lisa and I am Coalway Community Infant School's Family Support Worker and ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant).

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.

Every Wednesday morning, I run a weekly coffee morning for parents/carers alongside the Family Support Workers from the Junior School. It 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.

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.

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 8.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.



