



**COALWAY COMMUNITY INFANT SCHOOL**  
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## Newsletter: December 2021



The South West Directors of Public Health, UK Health Security Agency (formerly PHE) and GCC Director of Education have once again reviewed the recommendations made to schools on 21<sup>st</sup> October and 12<sup>th</sup> November and have recommended that measures are maintained until the end of term, due to the high case rates, which are being seen particularly in school age children. Through liaison with Gloucester County Council and local schools, we are aware of a high number of local schools experiencing cases or outbreaks and of local case rates remaining high.

We will therefore be continuing our existing additional control measures to reduce possible COVID-19 transmission within school until the end of term. Large gatherings and assemblies have been paused, year group bubbles are in place to reduce mixing, staff taking twice weekly LFD tests will continue and increased hygiene and good infection control practices are in place (ventilation, touchpoint cleaning and hygiene measures).

We have also received new advice from the Department for Education to introduce new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK. Following their recommendations, face coverings will be worn by staff and adults (including visitors) when moving around in corridors and communal areas. Visitors to school are currently limited to essential visitors only, however we would also ask that parents now wear a face covering if they enter the school entrance foyer to see School Office staff. Face coverings do not need to be worn when outdoors.

New procedures have also been introduced for contact tracing and isolation for close contacts of a confirmed case of the Omicron variant. DfE guidance states that 'all individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly and required to self-isolate immediately and asked to book a PCR test. They will be informed by the local health protection team or NHS Test and Trace if they fall into this category and provided details about self-isolation.

Further actions for educational settings may be advised by a local Incident Management Team (IMT) investigating a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

For everyone else, isolation rules are unchanged. Individuals are not required to self isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- 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.

Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, should continue to attend school as normal.

We are extremely thankful that as we near the end of term 2 all members of our school remain healthy and well and hope this long continues. Everyone has worked so hard to enable this. May we thank parents and carers once again for your fantastic support in remaining so vigilant in following all relevant advice and COVID procedures. Our absolute priority remains everyone's safety, and ensuring that the children's time in school remains uninterrupted. As we spend more time indoors during the winter, everyone's vigilance will be vital. Your support has been wonderful and is hugely appreciated; thank you.



The children have had a great term once again and are working really hard. We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas with them over the coming weeks and bringing them lots of excitement and fun! We are sad though that we are unable to invite you into school to share in concerts and other events due to the ongoing COVID situation and restrictions but will keep you informed of these either virtually or via Coalway Kids News.



### Year 1 Christmas Concert

Classes 3 and 4 have been busy working hard preparing a Christmas concert for their parents. As we are unable to hold large gatherings or invite parents in to school at the moment, staff will be recording their concert and will send out the link for Class 3 and 4 parents to see it before the end of term. Please look out for notification towards the end of term that this is ready... the children are looking forward to presenting 'Follow the Star' to you!

(For the information of our Reception parents: Each year group performs a concert for their parents during the course of the year. Classes 1 & 2 will perform concerts for their parents towards the end of the Spring term, and Classes 5 & 6 will perform a Leavers concert for Year 2 parents in July).

### Christmas Film Night



We will be holding a film night for the children after school on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December**. Due to COVID regulations and the need to stay in our year group bubbles, we will have 3 separate showings for our 3 different year groups of a favourite Christmas film.

Film Night will be held straight after school until 4.30 p.m. Collection will be from the children's usual classroom doorways at 4.30 p.m.

The children will be provided with a drink and either a hot dog in a bun or popcorn during their film showing – please specify your child's preference on the return slip attached. The price of a ticket will be £1.50. Please book a ticket by returning the reply slip to Class teachers, with money, in a sealed envelope. Thank you.

### Christmas Dinner



The children will be having their Christmas dinner on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December** – a traditional roast turkey dinner (with chipolata sausage, stuffing balls, peas, carrots, roast potatoes, gravy), followed by a chocolate cookie. Anyone requiring the vegetarian option of Christmas Vegetable Wellington should request this option at the School Office a week in advance of this, by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

N.B. Please note that the menu will change on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December from a roast dinner to fish and chips (Friday's choice on the existing menu).

### Christmas Jumper Day



The children may wear their Christmas tops/jumpers/dresses/leggings on Christmas dinner day as **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December** is also national Christmas Jumper Day whereby money is raised for 'Save the Children'. If you wish to donate, a donation of 50p would be gratefully received for the charity.

### Christmas Parties

The children's Christmas parties will be held on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**. School Fund will be covering the cost of food and prizes to be bought for each class party.

If preferred, we thought the children might like to wear their favourite clothes/party clothes to school on this day; otherwise they may wear normal school uniform if they would prefer.



### Christmas Service



As a whole school we will be making a virtual Christmas Service for everyone to share in. We will be telling the Christmas story through readings and carols. This will be published in the last week of term – again, please look out for notification in due course.

### Christmas Post



If the children would like to send any cards to their friends, each class will have its own post box in the classroom! The Christmas post boxes will be opening on 1<sup>st</sup> December!

### Christmas Tree Festival

We are taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival at Mount of Olives Church, which runs from **4<sup>th</sup> December -5<sup>th</sup> January**. The children have made decorations to decorate a 6ft tree, which our Year 2 children will be displaying on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Our tree will then be on display throughout the Christmas period at all of their services and Christmas events. We would love you to go along and see the children's handiwork!



### Class Chocolate Hampers



This year the classes will be making their own chocolate/sweet hampers to raffle for their own classes throughout December. We would welcome any items you can donate to your child's own class hamper – please hand these directly to the Class teachers. Raffle tickets will be available to buy from Class teachers by the end of this week, price 20p each or £1 for a strip of 5 tickets. Thank you.

### Foodbank donations

Can you provide any donations for the local Foodbank to support them over the Christmas and winter period? Over the course of next week (**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> –Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December**) we will be collecting donations of food items for the Forest Foodbank in the school entrance foyer; please drop off any items at the beginning or end of the day on the table provided. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

### Other Information...

#### Ofsted Inspection

As you are aware, Ofsted Inspectors were in school on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November to undertake an Inspection. The inspection findings will be published in a report for the school and parents in due course. We expect to receive their full report within 30 working days of the Inspection and will notify parents as soon as this is received.

### School Intake and Junior Transfer September 2022



Reminder... applications for admission to the Infants and Junior School for September 2022 should be completed on-line by midnight Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

If you have a child or know of anyone who has a child who intends to start at this school in September 2022, please ask them to contact the school to register their child. Thank you.

## School Values

Over the last term the staff and Governors have been reviewing the school's vision and values. We have placed information about our new values, new Coalway Bees and our vision on the school website and would welcome parent's comments; please [click here](#) for further information.

## 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.

**Thank you ...**

## Children in Need



Thank you for supporting Children in Need day on 19<sup>th</sup> November; we were quite overwhelmed by your fantastic support once again. We certainly fulfilled this year's theme of 'Together we can'! The children really enjoyed a day of Pudsey themed activities dressed in their fancy dress, spots, stripes and Pudsey outfits. Everyone joined in the Children in Need 'Big Fancy Dress Singalong!', as well as 'filling in the shape of Pudsey' with coins. (Please see your ParentMail accounts for photos). Thank you to all parents who supported this event and to those who sent in coins to cover our Pudsey's and boost our total. An incredible **£276.94** was raised for Children in Need – Thank you!

## Remembrance Day Poppies



Thank you to everyone who supported our 'Poppy Day' collection – we will let you know how much we raised as soon as we are informed.

## 'Operation Christmas Child' Boxes



16 boxes were donated to the 'Samaritan's Purse' charity. Thank you to everyone who supported this worthy cause. We are sure our gifts will be greatly appreciated by the children who will receive them.

**School Finishes Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00 p.m.**

The children return to school on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January

**Reply Slip: Film Night – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 3.00-4.30 p.m.**

Child's Name ..... Class .....

I require a ticket for Christmas Film Night

My child would like:

Hotdog in a bun

Veggie Hotdog in a bun

Popcorn  (please tick **one** option only)

And will be given a drink.

If your child has any other dietary requirements, please contact the office directly.

I enclose £1.50

Signed .....

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