



COALWAY COMMUNITY INFANT SCHOOL

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Newsletter: January 2022

As this is our first newsletter of 2022 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!

Inspection Report

As notified yesterday, we have received our Inspection report, which was distributed to all parents via ParentMail yesterday - full details within the email. Please contact the School Office if you have not received this. The report will be published on the Ofsted website later next week.



Class Topic Plans & Home learning

Parents' class topic planners will be emailed home shortly (and will also 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, and would encourage parents to practice those ideas identified by staff that may help the children at home this term.

Our class topics this term are as follows:

Classes 1 and 2	Bright Ideas!
Classes 3 and 4	What Can You See? What Can You See?
Classes 5 and 6	Lift Off!

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 will also be sent home learning choices for the children for their new topics. Please send in all home learning that is completed; we shall be sharing the children's fabulous work with their friends and teachers again this term and celebrating it on our home learning walls.

R.E.A.D.

Well done everyone! We are thrilled with how much you have been reading at home! Keep going... some of you are so close to getting that badge.



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 10.00 a.m.) on the first day of absence. 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.

To raise parents' awareness of their child's attendance to date this academic year we will be sending home a printout of their attendance shortly. This identifies their percentage attendance since September and the number of authorised and unauthorised absences which your child has.

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.

Understandably, many children's attendance has been affected by COVID guidelines this year and their absence may be lower than usual as a result. 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 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 or presenting with coronavirus symptoms. It will be essential that we can make immediate contact with you in these circumstances and that your child is collected as soon as possible.

Coronavirus

As winter progresses and cases continue to spread, may we thank all parents and carers for being so vigilant in following all relevant advice, identifying and responding to COVID-19 symptoms promptly, and keeping us informed.

Over the Christmas period there appears to have been a significant increase in COVID case rates locally and these are currently high within the Coleford area. Therefore, for the first part of this term at least, we intend keeping our pre-Christmas procedures in place in school (including continuation of twice-weekly LFD staff testing, reduced mixing between year groups, additional hygiene and ventilation measures and staff wearing face coverings in communal areas). We would also ask that parents continue to wear a face covering if they enter the school entrance foyer to see School Office staff.

Government advice is likely to continue to change this term; we will keep you informed of any changes. For the most up to date advice, please visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus or continue to contact us should you need any further support or advice.

Parents should note that from Tuesday 11th January confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.



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 15th January 2022.

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!

'Bend the Rules' Non-Uniform Day



On the last day of term, **Friday 18th February**, your child may come to school in clothes other than their uniform, put gel in their hair, wear trainers and even wear nail varnish.... 'bending the rules' for a day **for 50p!**

School Lunches Menu



The current dinner menu continues this term until the holiday, Friday 18th February. Copies of the menu were sent home before the holiday and are also available on the school website.



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
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
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.



Christmas

We were particularly proud of our Year 1 children for producing such a fantastic virtual concert for their parents and families last term, and also to all classes for a lovely re-telling of the Christmas story through readings and songs. Well done children!

The children had a really enjoyable end of term, especially when Santa visited their parties with special individual gifts! All classes also received class gifts from Santa which they will be able to enjoy throughout the coming year.

Thank you! We raised **£77** through our end of term Christmas Jumper Day for 'Save the Children'.

Thank you also for your generous donations to the Forest Food Bank to support them over the Christmas and winter period.

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.

Term dates

School finishes for the holiday on Friday 18th February.

Half Term – Monday 21st – Friday 25th February

Term 4 starts Monday 28th February.

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