

Parent Information – Friday 6th November

Please can we remind all parents/carers that children should not be bringing in any unnecessary items into school to reduce risk.

Lunches

We have been working hard with the school kitchen to try and find an alternative to our sandwiches only lunches. Unfortunately, Caterlink have informed us that they can only do the sandwiches or the hot lunches. Because of the current situation, we are unable to manage getting hot lunches to all children safely so for the moment, I am afraid that our restricted lunch choices will have to continue. We will continue to try and come up with a solution and are exploring different possibilities.

Communication regarding covid cases

The school is following guidance from Public Health England and Gloucestershire County Council regarding communication with parents about covid cases. If a child or staff member receives a positive covid test result, the school will follow advice about communicating this to families and closing class bubbles. The school is advised not to take action or inform parents about pupils or staff who are isolating because they are potential contacts or if they have possible symptoms and are waiting for test results, as in most cases this will cause unnecessary anxiety as most test results are negative. If you have any questions about this, please do ring the school as we are very happy to talk to you about any worries that you might have. Be reassured though that we are ready to take very swift action if this is necessary.

Safety on the school site

As we enter the second lockdown it is very important that everyone is safe on the school site and for that reason we are asking all parents/carers to observe the rules that we have in place. The most important thing is to minimise the possibility of passing on the virus by reducing to an absolute minimum the number of people and length of time they spend on site.

Thank you to everyone for wearing masks. It is more important than ever that you continue to do so. We intend to greet your children without masks on for as long as possible because we feel that it is essential for their well-being to be able to see us, at the classroom door. This is only possible as long as you continue to ring the school to share any concerns or queries with teachers so thank you very much indeed for doing that – it really helps us to keep everyone safe. By safeguarding the teaching staff, we can keep the class bubbles open. When we greet you at the gate, it is lovely to be able to have a quick ‘catch up’ especially as we can put the children at their ease. Please don’t feel that you can’t speak to us there. Again, for as long as possible we will continue not to wear masks as it doesn’t feel right for there to be a different rule for senior leaders than there is for teaching staff.

Please stand well back from the classroom doors. Under no circumstances should anyone other than school staff be opening classroom doors to let children in or out. You should stand well back and wait for the teacher to let your child in or out. Also, while on site, all children must remain with the adult who is dropping them off or collecting them. Please pass this information to anyone else who brings or collects your child - grandparents and friends do not receive these messages directly!

We are very grateful to you all for supporting us by observing the time slots for dropping off and collecting children from site, and only having one member of the family on site for any family of children. Without your help and cooperation with this, we would really struggle to keep everyone safe.

Armistice

We are very sad that we cannot invite you all in to share our usual Armistice commemoration this year as it is such an important time for us as a school. I want to reassure you that we are working hard on Armistice poetry across the school and we will share this with you via the website. I would also like to thank you for your generosity in sending in money for the poppy appeal. It is very kind of you and I am sure that the British Legion will be very grateful, especially in this year where charities have struggled so much.

Charities

Last year our charity committee of pupils in years 5 and 6, worked hard on how we could raise money and for which charities. Their work will be put into place once the current restrictions have been removed. For this term, I thought that you would appreciate a bit of prior warning about what is coming up. We need to consider how best to keep everyone safe when thinking about charities and about what is best for our families in lockdown. For this reason, we will be supporting **Children in Need** with a non-school uniform day on Friday 13th November. We would ask you to send your child with £1 if they would like to join in. We will not be selling any merchandise in school.

I know that some children in Heron class are raising money for our defibrillator so watch this space for how to contribute later in the term.

Photographs

The school photographs which parents have ordered on-line have arrived and will be sent home with the children early next week

Forest Schools

Skylark Class on Wednesday Afternoons

Jay Class on Thursday Afternoons

The kit list has been sent by a separate message earlier this week. Please make sure your children have their Forest School kit!

School Application Process for entry to EYFS in September 2021

Parents who have children due to start school in September 2021 will start to receive their application packs this week. This is for children born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017. Applications must be made by 15th January 2021. If anyone is expecting to receive an application pack and it has not arrived by the end of November please contact the County Council, or let the school office know and we will pass on your information.

Sadly, we will not be able to hold open days or evenings this year, but we will be preparing a video tour and additional information which will be available on the school website from next week. Staff will also be very happy to make telephone appointments to speak to prospective parents.

Please pass this information on to anyone you know who has a child due to start school next year. We will send out lots of reminders!

Flu Immunisation

Immunisations will take place at school on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th of November. Thank you to everyone who has completed either the online application or completed a paper form. We are really pleased that a very high proportion of the children will be receiving the immunisation – this means that we are much less likely to have children suffering from flu this winter.