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Tuesday 17th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Dates for Diary

Wednesday 18th November – Flu vaccinations – earlier date became available
Wednesday 18th November – Wear “odd socks” to school – Anti Bullying awareness week
Thursday 19th November – Individual Photographs; no sibling photos this year
Thursday 3rd December – National celebration day for those with disabilities
Friday 11th December – Wear a Christmas jumper to school – non-school uniform
Friday 18th December – Last day of Term 2
Monday 4th January – First day of Term 3

Staffing

This term, we have welcomed back Miss Kaytee Parish (Family Community Worker), returning from her maternity leave. She will be focusing on attendance and working with parents to support their needs. She works as part of the Pastoral Support Team. If you have any social, emotional, financial or attendance needs then please contact the school office to get in touch with Miss Parish. She can apply for Feed Cheltenham supermarket vouchers and support claims for the Local Authority Covid-19 Funding, as well.



This week, we say goodbye to Mrs Jayne DeBonis (Y3 Class TA). She has worked at our school for 12 years. We would like to thank her for her care and commitment to our pupils and school. We wish her all the best as she leaves us. The new Y3 class TA will be announced shortly. We are currently in the process of recruiting staff.

Uniform

Acting upon advice from the Local Authority's SHE team, ventilation is key in lowering the risk of spreading Covid-19. Please can we ask that pupils wear an extra layer, under their school uniform, as more recently the weather has changed, with lowering temperatures. The heating will be on but the classroom doors and windows will also be open. Thermal underwear, a vest or t-shirt under uniform will help, as sometimes wearing coats inside during work time, can constrict the children's movement. Girls can wear tights with skirts or trousers (black or grey) if needed. Please make sure that your child has a coat in school, every-day. We don't want children to potentially catch any colds but at the same time we need to ventilate.

Property Care



We are having some essential building work take place in school, this term. This is being led by the Local Authority and is all subject to risk assessments. The Governing Board are fully aware of the necessary works and have approved them as part of our school improvement. The health and safety of our pupils and staff is always our top priority.

The contractors will be subject to safeguarding checks and Covid-19 risk assessments. We are fortunate that we can separate out the building work from the main school learning environment, so contractors will not be in classroom areas or the playground.

Charity – Fund Raising

This year, we won't be asking for money to be brought into school. Last year, we had some feedback that some parents/careers were finding it costly to give to each of our causes, especially those with larger families. We were extremely grateful of the fund-raising actioned by the "Friends of Hester's Way" parent/carer group and look forward to this taking place again in the future, when it is safe to do so. Things are different this year and we appreciate that many families will have financial hardships. So, we will leave it up to you to give to any charities or causes that you wish to give to but we will continue to highlight the national events in school.



Social Distancing

Please keep 2 metres apart and be aware of social distancing on arrival and departure of school.

Our Neighbours

A house on the Milne Walk pathway is having a new fence constructed. Please can we ask that **EVERYONE, children and adults do not stand on their property**. We are fortunate to have such lovely, understanding neighbours – please can we respect their gardens and fences by not leaning on them. "Be respectful" is an important school rule and part of our education for the children to be considerate and caring citizens. Please support school with this.

COVID-19 Symptoms

Cases are rising in Gloucestershire and many schools are having to partially or fully close to self-isolate due to positive test results. Please remain vigilant and aware.

Individuals will need a test if they have any of the following:

- a high temperature, hot to the touch on chest or back - no need to measure temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss, or change in sense of smell or taste

Please also be aware that in children skin rashes and "Covid toe" has been linked to child symptoms of Covid-19, as well as sickness and diarrhoea. Please let us know if your child has these symptoms.

Getting a Test and Self-Isolating

If your child or any member of the household is showing any symptoms call 119 or visit the 119 websites to book to attend a GCC mobile testing site or get a home testing kit. Please self-isolate the household until the test results are negative or for 14 days.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/covid-19-information-and-advice/mobile-testing-unit-locations/>

If anyone is travelling, please self-isolate on return to the UK, where needed, and let us know. Government info - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>

Best wishes,

The HWPS School Team.