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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back

Hopefully you have had as good as summer as possible, with family and friends. We are very much looking forward to seeing you all back at school next week and getting back to our school routines, even though they may be a little different to usual.

A letter and a "Return to School - Roadmap" were sent out via email at the end of term. These can be found on the Home Page of the school website <https://hesterswayprimaryschool.co.uk/>.

We will hold an Inset Day on Tuesday 1st September. The autumn term will start on **Wednesday 2nd September** and our new Reception Class children have separate group dates/times. Please find attached the term dates for the year and other provisional INSET days. These will be confirmed in the first academic newsletter.

Remember that with families, all children will enter with the earliest time allotted to your children and leave with the latest time. Please be patient with us, as we get used to our new procedures at the school gate.

Self-Isolating

If you have been abroad on holiday or are starting school, following a move from abroad, then please follow the current Government guidance for quarantine measures, to keep our school community as safe as possible <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk>. There is a list of countries that may be exempt from people having to self-isolate, this is being updated all of the time. If you are not sure then please call or email the school office before returning to school – better to be safe!

Also, if your child or yourselves have been unwell, with potential COVID-19 symptoms, since Tuesday 18th August, then please email admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk or lgreen@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk to let us know and stay away from school until we contact you. Similarly, anyone who's child has a shielding GP letter or there are extreme shielding concerns with family members at home, please contact school. With the lifting of Government shielding restrictions over the summer holidays, this will now be limited.

If you or your child are unwell with a new or continuous cough, high temperature, loss of smell or hearing please call 119 to request a Coronavirus test. Please self-isolate and stay at home until the results of the test are confirmed to you. Please inform school throughout this process for attendance and safeguarding procedures. Also look out for mottled, rash like skin conditions on your child, notify us of any concerns, and seek medical advice.

If the test is positive then you will need to self-isolate for 14 days, with members of your household. If your child has attended school and tests positive then the class bubble will also have to self-isolate for 14 days. This is to prevent the spread and risk of other's contracting the virus. As we know, some can have the virus and have mild symptoms, where as for others it can be life threatening, so we must be considerate to everybody.

Transition

We had hoped to have brief meetings with Reception parent/carers on the first day of term, outside and in a socially distanced manner. Unfortunately, rain is forecast so these will be changed to phone calls or virtual meetings where possible. The teaching staff will contact you regarding this.

Hopefully, you have been able to see the transition power-point for your child's next class, on the school website. Class newsletters will be sent out the first week back to share when PE or Forest School sessions will take place. The first two weeks of school, will be spent settling the children back into school and working on Personal, Social, Emotional and Health Education (PSHE). Please try not to worry as we know that this is a difficult time for everyone. If you are experiencing any issues and need support then please contact pastoralsupport@hestersay.gloucs.sch.uk or head@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk.

What to wear and bring to school

We will expect school uniform to be worn. If you are finding it financially difficult to purchase or find school uniform please contact Jackie Harris pastoralsupport@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk. We do have some "pre-loved", spare uniform, in good condition at school that we can provide.

Your child will be able to wear their PE kit to school on PE days to lessen any potential risk of germ transmission through changing and having to bring extra clothing/bags into school. When the weather is cooler please send your child into school wearing navy or black joggers. Trainers can be worn on PE days too. We are happy for children to wear black school shoes that double up as trainers, some designs serve both purposes. We appreciate that the cost of uniform can escalate but we still want our pupils to be smart and feel part of the school community.

Your child will only have to bring their lunchbox and drink if they are not having school dinners. We will provide a clear wipeable zip bag for books to come home each week and books will be quarantined at school before they are reused to try and limit any germ transmission. Please do not bring in school bags or book bags. We will provide each child with their own stationary, so no pencil cases either please. Reception, Year 1 and any child with incontinence issues may bring in a change of clothing in a PE bag to keep in their lockers, in case your child needs a change of clothing during the day. We will provide snacks and water bottles at school.

The current government guidance is that no child 11 years and under should wear a face mask. If you choose for your child to wear a face mask on the way to school then please remove it and dispose of it before they enter school. We will ask children to put any masks in the bin or store them in sealed bags, in a sealed container, until the end of the day, if they are found in school. Staff will wear PPE when needed under first aid and illness guidance or when dealing with close contact situations with a child who has specific needs.

Please ensure that coats are worn to school, as children may go out at breaktimes for fresh air, even if it is lightly raining. On hotter days, still send in a coat and sun cream should be applied at home and sun hats/caps worn.

Don't forget inhalers – to keep at school - or if they have to be returned home daily, please put them in a plastic zipper bag, clearly name labelled. Any medical forms will have to be requested, sent home with the pupil and returned with the child the following day. We would prefer medication to be administered at home, around the school day, unless it is an extreme case which will be agreed by the Head Teacher.

Contact Us

We will not be allowing parents on the school site, unless it is an urgent matter, if you need to contact us please call or email. The details can be found on the school website:

<https://hesterswayprimaryschool.co.uk/contact-us/>

Kind regards, Kirsti Ashman (Head Teacher)