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Tuesday 19th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Dates for Diary

Monday 4th January – Start of Spring Term 3 2021 – staggered drop off times continue

Tuesday 5th January – Partial closure of school due to National Lockdown 3

Friday 12th February – End of Spring Term 3 2021 – TBC

Return to full school opening to be confirmed by Government, dependent on Covid-19 situation

We hope that you are well and that you are re-adjusting to National Lockdown 3. Whilst we miss having the children in school and appreciate the challenges of home learning, we must remember that as a nation we must try to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and its' variants. We hope that you are staying safe and ask that you contact school if your child has any symptoms or is being tested for Covid-19 so that we can maintain our internal "Track and Trace" records, as well as seek any help and support that you may need. <https://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/goucestershires-community-help-hub/>

Unfortunately, we had 5 positive cases reported to us in our Year 6 class, over the Christmas holidays and the last in the first week of Term 3, whilst the Year 6 class were still self-isolating. We continue to work closely with the Local Authority and Public Health Teams. As a school community, we wish all of those affected well, and that they have a speedy recovery. Thank you to everyone in our school community for remaining vigilant and informing us of COVID-19 testing and outcomes. Please use the school email: admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk.

Free School Meals (FSMs)

The government is opening the Edenred website to schools this week. They are staggering the ordering, over the next three weeks, and we can access the site from Wednesday. As before, for those eligible for benefit related FSMs, you will receive an email with codes which you can redeem vouchers against by logging into the Edenred website as a parent. Here are the details to follow: <https://www.edenred.co.uk/reward-recipients/Free-School-Meal-Vouchers/>. You can choose the supermarket. Marks and Spencers are awarding an additional £5 when you spend a £15 voucher in store. <https://twitter.com/marksandspencer/status/1350047483666325504> Four weeks' worth of vouchers will be awarded. Due to the delay in opening the site and the government limiting the amount that we can order, we will ensure that the other two weeks of FSM entitlement will be awarded by the end of term either in a food parcel or through the Edenred site. More details about this will follow when we have found out more information.

Feed Cheltenham Vouchers

We have been able to access additional supermarket vouchers through this brilliant charity. Please email FCW@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk or head@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk if you need any temporary financial support. This is for anyone – not just for FSM pupils and their families.

Home Learning

We appreciate that homelearning can be challenging and as the government said when we all returned to school in September, the best place for a child to learn is at school. However, we want to offer the best way for your child to access their learning, whilst they are at home.

In the summer term, we asked for feedback about our Home Learning Offer

[https://hesterswayprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Home-Learning-](https://hesterswayprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Home-Learning-questionnaire-analysis.pdf)

[questionnaire-analysis.pdf](https://hesterswayprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Home-Learning-questionnaire-analysis.pdf). We have tried to ensure that we print the workpacks, as this can be time consuming, costly and not everyone has access to computers, printers and paper. We also want to further improve our provision, which is why we are setting up the TEAMS meetings with the classes, twice a day, where possible. Teachers and TAs will be present to share instructions and hopefully motivate the children to do their work ready for the afternoon meeting.

To access the TEAMS meeting please log in to your child's email account and the TEAMS meeting invite will be emailed for you to join the meeting, click onto the browser or download the TEAMS APP. Please bear with us whilst this is set up, as no doubt there will be some issues and queries to sort out. Thank you in advance for your patience.

How to log in to the student email account: google RMUnify.com then type in the full pupil email address in the user section, enter the password and you should be in the account. Teachers will email an invite to a meeting – press "join the meeting" at the given time.

How to join a TEAMS meeting <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoftteams/troubleshoot/meetings/how-to-join-a-teams-meeting>

Thank you to those parent/carers who have emailed work back to teachers. Please keep the children's work as they complete it and when we hand out the next pack, the teachers will collect it to check the work, after a quarantined period. This includes returning and replacing school reading books to ensure that the children have school texts. Please find more books online here: <https://library.thenational.academy/>.

During phone calls and correspondance, we have received some feedback that there may be too much work. The government state the amount of time that we should provide work for, however you know your children well and no-one wants to put them off their learning, so please do what you can! The child's well-being is so important. Our Family Community Worker has sent out some well-being packs too. Please can we ask for all school reading books to be returned when you collect the next home learning pack and we will have more ready for you to take home.

Remain vigilant

The new strain of Cornavirus seems to be more easily spread and we now find our own county's cases rising. The strain on our NHS will no doubt increase, as they start to see the effects of December's increased cases needing medical support and attention. It is so important to please follow the guidance to keep your families and others safe at this time.



You or your child may also have to test due to getting potential Covid-19 symptoms, since leaving school. Please continue to inform us, as we may still have children and staff in school who are considered to be close contacts. If there are positive tests we need to know immediately, to ensure that we can keep others safe. We also care and want the school community members, who have contracted this awful virus to get well quickly and access any support where needed.

Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:



Symptoms

If any child or family member has the Covid-19 symptoms, please continue to test if they have:
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

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 website 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 10 days or until well.

<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.goucestershire.gov.uk/covid-19-information-and-advice/mobile-testing-unit-locations/>

Please email school if you need any help or support with learning, food or financial help.

Stay safe everyone!

Miss Kirsti Ashman and the HWPS Team

