



Head Teacher: Kirsti Ashman  
Dill Avenue, Cheltenham, GL510ES  
T 01242 525616  
E [head@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:head@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk)  
WWW. [hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk](http://hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk)

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

#### Dates for Diary

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – First day of Term 3  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Last day of Term 2

### Best Wishes for the New Year!

After an interesting and unprecedented 2020, the staff at HWPS wish you all good health and happiness in 2021.

# 2021

We must celebrate the triumphs of 2020 with children sharing that they spent time at home with families cooking, playing and learning to ride their bikes, during the initial lockdown. The keyworker groups and teaching staff continued to attend school and parents/carers bravely battled home learning – everyone doing their best in new and challenging times.

In September, the children showed us their great resilience and perseverance as they returned to school, catching up on lost learning time and making progress in their new year group. We had an amazing Autumn term run with no positive tests and not having to close any “class bubble” whilst schools in the local area had a very different picture.

We will continue to be vigilant, carry out our risk assessment and follow government guidance. We thank you in advance for your help and cooperation with this, as our school community affects us all and our loved ones.

### Attendance

As the government have confirmed that we return to school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, attendance is still statutory. If you have a child or member of your family who has a shielding letter or is considered to be “extremely clinically vulnerable”, then you should seek advice from your GP with regards to shielding. The “extremely clinically vulnerable” group are advised to stay at home whilst in Tier 4. See guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/advice-for-clinically-extremely-vulnerable-in-new-tier-4-areas>. Please email [admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk) with any absence details and copies of the letters. Also, please advise us if your circumstances have changed and you are seeking a shielding letter from you GP. The teaching staff will the email home learning or get packs ready for you to arrange collection if you have limited IT and printing facilities.

### Positive COVID-19 Cases

Unfortunately, during the Christmas break, we have had 4 positive COVID-19 test results reported to us, including a member of the teaching team and 3 pupils in Year 6. The class will continue to self-isolate this week, with our practise supported by the Gloucestershire Health Protection Team. It is only with vigilance that 2 cases were detected as there were little or none of the “usual” NHS/government symptoms. If you have any concerns or are in any doubt please seek a test and self-isolate. Mild symptoms have included a headache, cold and feeling dizzy. Whilst other symptoms include sickness, diarrhoea and skin rashes, as well as the “usual” symptoms.

## COVID-19 NHS 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

## 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>

## Close Contact to a Positive Case

The entire household must self-isolate for 10 days, with a positive test result. Track and Trace should contact you about timescales, however they are delayed in contacting people at the moment. It is advised that you let people know who the positive person has been in contact with, so that they can self-isolate.

DO NOT INVITE OTHER PEOPLE INTO YOUR HOME IF YOU ARE SELF ISOLATING.

Only the person who has been in contact with the positive person from another household needs to self-isolate. Although this can have childcare implications.

Please follow the government guidance as parents/carers can be fined for any law-breaking activity.

## Support

Please seek support from friends and family at this time, to drop provisions at your door – maintain social distance at all times. Also, there are support links here:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershires-community-help-hub/>

## Clothing

Please can children wear vests and tights under uniforms to keep them warm, as we have the heating on but also have windows open for ventilation, as per GCC SHE department guidance. It is getting colder, so the children need to wear their own coats, hats and gloves. Please label them so staff can reunite lost items with their owners.



## Gates

Please can we ask that all parent/carers wear mask on arrival and collection of the children at the school gates. Also, please socially distance at least 2 metres – the new strain of virus is more easily transferrable.

**Please can we ask that Rec arrive at 8.45am, Year 2 at 9.00am and Y1 at 9.15am. Collection times Year 2 2.40pm, Year 1 2.50pm and Reception at 3.00pm.** Respect each-others space. Please arrive at the set times and do not hang around the gate areas, as others have to then pass you.

## Photo Permissions and Contact Details

A couple of parents contacted us as their child was not in the Christmas film. Please can you contact the school office by phone or email [admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk) if you want to change your child's permission or your contact details. We can only share with the school community if your child has permission for social media and the school website, as the footage could be shared via these medias.

## Catering

School dinners will be served to Y1-Y4 in their class. Reception will sit in the hall at first sitting and Year 5 and 6 will be timetabled at later times, in the hall. The hall will be well ventilated and there are guidelines and risk assessments in place for staff to follow. "Class bubbles" will be maintained at all times.

Please apply for free school meals <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/> even if you receive universal free school meals in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, as the school receives £1,345 for every FSM or Ever6 pupil.

## Closing or Partial Closing Procedures

If for any reason, we do have to partially or fully close, we will as always, text the relevant parties. Inform the GCC school closing site: <https://closures.gloucestershire.gov.uk/> . Then do the same when re-opening.

## Home Learning

If for any reason, we do need to revert to homelearning, teachers will email home learning. For those who have limited technology, printing or resources, please email the teacher back or contact the [admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk) and we will print a pack for you to collect or arrange collection.

We understand that this is an anxious time for everyone but we will do our utmost to support everyone's safe return to school. Whilst we cannot eradicate all risk we will follow the government guidance and school risk assessments to limit risk. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any worries or concerns.

Wishing you all the best,

The HWPS Team

