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Tuesday 26th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Dates for Diary 2020-21

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

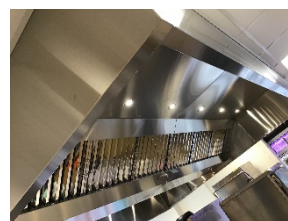
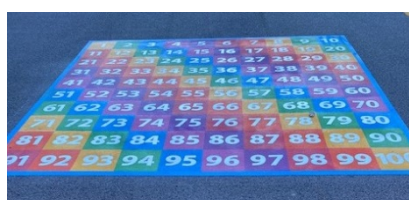
Friday 12th February – End of Spring Term 3 2021

Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February – Half term break: no Critical Key Worker or Vulnerable group this week

Monday 22nd February – Start of Spring Term 4 2021 – Critical Key Worker or Vulnerable groups only
N.B. Return to full school opening yet to be confirmed. This is dependent on the Covid-19 situation; schools and parents will be given 2 weeks-notice by the Government.

Update on our school site

The school playground has been re-designed and covered in colourful playground markings.... in readiness for our wonderful pupils to enjoy, on their safe return to school. We have had essential building work done around school, including the new kitchen roof, ceiling and extractor fan. A new drainage system, was installed last week, running along-side the glass corridor to prevent the water getting in under the doors during torrential rainfall.



Free School Meals (FSMs)

School have now ordered vouchers for those children eligible for Free School Meals through the Edenred website. You should have received an email to redeem the vouchers <https://www.edenred.co.uk/reward-recipient/Free-School-Meal-Vouchers/> . If you haven't received an email please contact the school office or email admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk .

If your circumstances have changed and you think that your child may be entitled to Free School Meals the please apply here: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/your-pupils/free-school-meals/> . Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 get Universal Free School Meals from the government when they are in school, but this does not cover the voucher scheme during the National Lockdown periods. Please apply for free school meals in order to get the vouchers.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals. Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the [compulsory age for starting school](#)
- in full-time education

Once your application has been approved school will be notified through the Local Authority and we can then order the vouchers for your child.

Please see the separate flyer from GCC regarding Free School Meals during the February half term. They are issuing to those already registered but you need to apply via their link for new applications.

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.

We do not judge. Please get in touch if you need help. In everyone's life at one time or another either they or a family member have needed help or support. Just ask and we will do our best to help!

Home Learning

We hope that the children are keeping up to date with their home learning packs. As education professionals, and some of us as parents, we know the challenges that many people are facing in trying to educate their children at home. However, it is so important that the children keep up with their learning.

Thank you for collecting the Home Learning packs. We have also included some games and other resources. If you have any suggestions or needs please fill in the questionnaire attached or speak to/email your child's class teacher. We would really appreciate your feedback and comments.



Please return your child's work back to school when you collect the next pack. Teachers would like to mark, give feedback and assess the work. Also, please can we have a school reading book amnesty when you collect the next work pack, please bring all school books and leave in the boxes. These will be quarantined and we will hand out more for your child to read and enjoy.

Teaching staff have started TEAMS meetings in the morning and then again later in the day. The invite will come through your child's school email account. The purpose of these online meetings is to outline and instruct the children on their daily tasks, then get feedback and celebrate some work, once completed. This is a good way for the children and staff to connect as they need to socialise, as well as learn. It is intended to help and support your child to work through the pack, as independently as they can. It is for the pupil and as such we ask that it is only them available on the screen. Please do not take photos or record the sessions for safeguarding purposes.

We want to help and support your child's education, as much as we can, with the resources available to us. All that we ask is that everyone tries their best... so if:

Possible scenario	What you can try to do
Your child is not able to complete all of the work every- day... for whatever reason.	Manage your time as best you can at home, sharing time with each child, whenever you can.... Not everyone can follow the school timetable or day. A little work done often will keep their brains active and practise the use of the knowledge, skills and understanding they already have to build on their new learning. Do what you can without it causing a stressful situation and switching your child off learning. Well-being is important too!
You feel uneasy or do not want others to see inside your home on TEAMS.	Turn the camera off or use a background to stop others seeing beyond the person on the screen. This is also a good safeguarding measure. Your home is a private place – we respect that. https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/change-your-background-for-a-teams-meeting-f77a2381-443a-499d-825e-509a140f4780
Your child lacks focus or concentration and just wants to watch TV or play on gaming equipment.	Try and set screen limits or channel the programmes to educational ones like BBC Bitesize. See the guides attached as you can use gaming consoles, smart phones and TVs to access emails and Microsoft TEAMS too. This may make the children think that their learning is more fun or give them easier access to getting online to do their school work. Please ensure that online safeguarding is actioned by using parental controls and checking what sites are accessed and who your child is talking to online. There has been an increase in online cyber-bullying and inappropriate incidents – BE AWARE and report to us or the police. Also, have regular movement breaks – see Sports suggestions.
You haven't got a laptop or device to get on line.	Contact school by phone or email lgreen@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk or head@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk .We have some laptops being set up but these are limited and we have to reach the maximum number of pupils by lending to families with more than one child at school or those with no device at home, in order to get online. We are trying to source more from the government, other local businesses and community projects.
You haven't got internet connection or limited data allowance.	As above – we can apply to try and get you unlimited data from various mobile phone networks. Please contact us – we may be able to help!
You are working but not a Critical Worker or you are a Critical Worker but choose not to send your child to school at this time.	Everyone is having to make difficult decisions and you have to do what is right for you and your family. We understand that there are many challenging family circumstances at the moment. Let your child's class teacher know, by email or in the weekly phone call, if you are finding things difficult, you want more or less work. They will be able to help and guide you on the most important subjects and items to study or practise.

<p>Your child is in the Critical Key Worker group.</p>	<p>Please use the school provision around your shift work. As numbers are rising, we need to ensure that the groups are used to enable people to work but that the purpose of the National Lockdown remains. We are trying to keep minimal numbers of children in school, whose families are potentially at higher risk of contracting Covid-19, as Critical Workers, this means will mean that the government guidance is followed and that “children are kept at home where they can be”.</p>
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Working with HMI Ofsted Inspectors

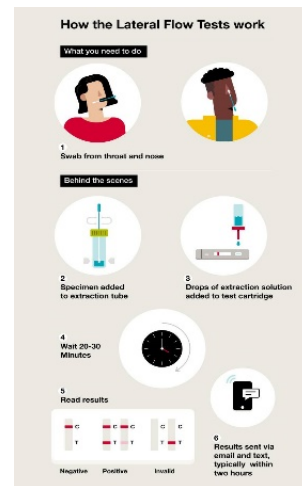
In the second week of this term, we worked with two HMI Ofsted Special Advisers to help them in their training and adaption to carrying out remote monitoring inspections. This was a positive experience for both parties and enabled us to share the challenges of working in school during the Covid-19 pandemic in National Lockdown 3. We discussed the practicalities, implications and impact of an Ofsted monitoring inspection. They in turn asked us about our key focus areas, our educational provision for those in and out of school and our curriculum. They spoke with Leaders, including a Governor and Curriculum Leads.

They had met with us at the end of the Summer Term, as they planned their inspections in schools for the Autumn Term. It was good to share our developments and improvements, as well as how well the children had returned to school, making progress with their learning throughout the Autumn Term. We have been so proud of our pupils and thankful to parents and carers for their support encouraging the children in their learning and vigilance in Covid-19 measures.

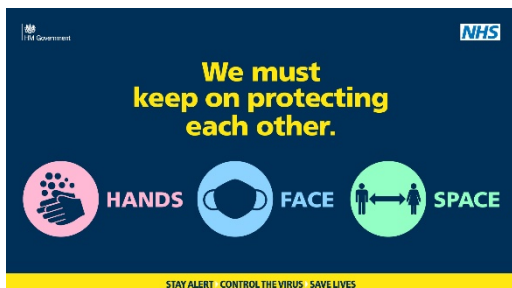
Staff Lateral Flow Testing (LFT)

Consenting staff will be carrying out LFT Covid-19 testing, twice a week, in order to try and prevent the potential spread of Covid-19. There is now more awareness of asymptomatic people (potentially 1 in 3 people) carrying and transmitting the virus.

We are aware that this could affect on our staffing, if staff test positive with an LFT they then have to seek a PCR Covid-19 test. Their household and the school “bubble” group they have worked with will also self-isolate. This is another protective, but not preventative measure.



Remain vigilant



Please continue to inform us, if your child or anyone in the household has symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19. We are aware that the government can announce and make changes at a moments notice, so we want to be aware of any cases, to protect everyone and offer any support.

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.gloucestershire.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

