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Dates for Diary 2021

Tuesday 16th November – Nasal flu immunisation
Wednesday 17th November – Fire Safety in Reception Class
Thursday 18th November – Braiswick Photographers in school – individual or siblings photos
Tuesday 23rd and 30th November – New Reception Class of 2022 meeting
Tuesday 14th December – Christmas dinner and jumper day!
Friday 17th December – Last Day of Autumn Term 2

Friday 12th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Ofsted



We will receive the Ofsted Report in approximately 25-30 days which will share the outcomes of the Inspectors findings, from Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th November 2021.

You all need to know that your children were amazing throughout. They talked about the school values, their learning and how they "stretch" themselves. They were fully engaged in their lessons, as always. Some took part in the pupil voice conference, whilst others showed the inspectors around school. Well done to everyone – you are all super stars!

Outbreak Plan

On return to school, from the half term break, like other schools we returned on the Outbreak Plan. This was sensible as on the first day we had 5 confirmed positive cases. Schools are awaiting further guidance, around this. We would like to thank you for your continued support.

Photographs



Pupils will have individual photos and we will collect siblings for photos, in school. There will not be any family portraits, before school with other younger siblings. Please let the school office (01242 525616) know if you DO NOT want your child's photograph to be taken by the external company.

Friends of Hester's Way School

Thank you to our FoHWPS group, who baked and provided cakes for the children on their Halloween dress up day. The children loved it and £108 was raised by the school community. The FoHWPS are planning some more events for this term – which is brilliant!



School Council

The School Council, was re-established at the start of the academic year. The class representatives have been meeting and working with Miss Parish, on priority issues across the school. Discussions have been around recycling and the need for more outdoor structures. Mrs G our Sports Lead is getting the last quote, shortly. The children will play their part in getting the outdoor structure in place, hopefully ready for the Spring Term. The children are using democracy across the school to let their voices be heard!



Cardboard to Coats

The Soho Coffee House have donated £3,400 to our school, to pay for all children to have school coats. A letter will be coming out shortly, with the sizing guide to order one for your child. This will mean that they can wear their coats outside for play, PE and other outdoor learning experiences. Thank you Soho Coffee House – it is greatly appreciated by all!

More Events to follow.....

Staff are planning lots of wonderful things for the children to do this term and in the run up to Christmas. More information will follow about this.



Covid-19 Updates

So far this term, we have had 5 positive cases. Thank you to parent/carers for remaining vigilant and getting the children tested, in order to prevent the spread of Covid in the school community. The walk in Covid testing centre at Coronation Square (behind the shops) has been turning around test results the next day, for those who have had to use it.

Covid-19 and Social Distancing at the Start and End of the Day



Whilst social distancing and wearing face coverings is now optional, we would ask that you respect the wishes of those who continue to observe these guidelines and also consider avoiding close contact, in groups, on site. This will be particularly relevant at the end of the school day.

We will still ask visitors to wear face masks and hand sanitise when coming into the building. Visitors to school will still be limited, as we move through the next phase of Covid measures in school.

If you have any important information to share or need the teaching staff to know anything, then please contact your child's class teacher via the class email address. Alternatively, you can contact the office: 01242 525616 or email admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk

As Covid-19 cases remain high, we ask that everyone remains vigilant in identifying Covid-19 symptoms and where possible does bi-weekly Lateral Flow Tests (LFT). Consenting staff will continue to administer the tests twice a week, to minimise the potential spread of Covid-19. A positive LFT must be followed up with a PCR test at a testing centre or a home test sent and followed up with an NHS positive or negative response.

Parents/carers can order these to use at home, if they choose to do so: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Testing is a way of minimising the risk of transferring potential Covid-19 to others, as well as picking up anyone who has Covid-19 but are not showing any symptoms.

Please keep any child at home with any Covid-19 symptoms and follow the guidance.

We will isolate any child who is showing symptoms, at school, and ask for them to be collected, immediately for testing and self-isolation. Also, any staff with symptoms will be sent home. *Please see the Covid-19 Risk Assessment, Outbreak Management Plan and Home School Agreement for more details about this. This is acting upon government guidance.*

Under safeguarding procedures, we must have at least 2 contacts to be able to collect your child, if they are showing Covid symptoms or in an emergency.

Covid-19 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. The person with the symptoms or positive LFT result, should self-isolate, until the PCR test outcomes are returned. Others in the household should self-isolate, unless they are fully vaccinated (two vaccinations) or under 18 years and 6 months. We have school/home tests at the moment, for pupils with symptoms. The mobile testing sites are super quick too.

<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/>

Reporting Positive Covid Cases

We have been fortunate that parents/carers have let us know, when they have received positive case results, so that we can act in school. Please email head@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk if your child has tested positive for Covid. If you do not receive a response please email: admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk

NHS Test and Trace will now ask the child/parent/carer who "close contacts" have been at school, within a 48-hour period. You may not know who this has been and we would appreciate it if you could contact school to find out. We will also monitor the situation, as best we can to try and minimise any further spread. We will contact the Department of Education and Public Health to seek advice.

School will be responsible for contact tracing employees and ensuring that measures are followed.

Positive Case Self -Isolation

The positive Covid-19 case will still self-isolate for 10 days; whilst others in the household should self-isolate, unless they are fully vaccinated (two vaccinations) or under 18 years and 6 months.

"Close contacts" will be advised to get a PCR test by NHS Test and Trace.

Those who do not need to self-isolate will remain at school, depending on the "close contact" identification and communication through NHS Test and Trace.

We have a GCC SHE Covid-19 Risk Assessment and Outbreak Management Plan, which may see us move back to “bubbles” depending on cases in school. These are published on the school website.

Travelling Abroad

Please can we ask that anyone travelling in and out of the country, checks the most up to date government guidance around self-isolating, before returning to school.

Bikes & Scooters

Once in the playground, can we ask children not to ride on their bikes or scooters but walk along side them.

This is a health & safety issue.

Kind regards,

Miss Kirsti Ashman and the HWPS Team.

