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Dates for Diary 2021- 2022

Friday 10th December – Boy's Brigade Christmas Fair
WC 13th December – Teacher's will organise class Christmas parties and send out info!
Tuesday 14th December – Christmas lunch and jumper day
Friday 17th December – Last Day of Autumn Term 2 - 1.30pm collection
Tuesday 4th January 2022 – First day of Spring term
Friday 28th January 2022 – Inset Day – No children at school

Wednesday 8th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for all of the kind comments about our recent "Good" Ofsted inspection, from different members of our school and local community. The report will be published online this week. What a lovely way to end the Autumn term!

Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day



On Tuesday 14th December, the children can wear non-school uniform and a Christmas jumper. Natalie will be providing a special Christmas lunch box for each child, with Turkey sandwiches, pigs in blankets, crisps and desserts, with other treats and crackers. We had planned Christmas dinner however, we have had to order a new kitchen steamer, which will be arriving in January. We will have a "Happy New Year" roast dinner when it arrives in 2022!

Pantomime at The Everyman

We have been gifted free tickets for Jack and the Beanstalk on Friday 7th January at 2pm. More details will follow and we hope that this will not be affected by any government Covid restrictions. Thank you to the Cheltenham Round Table who have contributed £150 towards this whole school trip.



Boy's Brigade Christmas Fair



As you may be aware, Boy's Brigade support many of our pupils and fund raise to cover the cost of their adventures. They also supplied goodies over the Covid holiday periods. This year, the Christmas Fair will be run by school staff and the children will enter the hall in classes, with personal hygiene measures followed. This retains some of the Christmas festivity for our children but enables us to control the situation, without visitors. Please send your child into school on Friday 10th December with money in a named envelope or container.

Outbreak Plan

On return to school, from the half term break, like other schools we returned on the Outbreak Plan. This was advised by Gloucestershire County Council, due to high Covid rates. Please see the poster attached which shares the information. As a school, we have always followed the government guidance and tried to keep as many children in school learning, as we can. This academic year, unlike some local schools, we have not had to close any classes to remote learning. Staff have internally covered, as supply staff numbers are low. We thank you for your patience and support with getting children tested and continuing to keep others safe.

Christmas Nativity

The children have been busy practising their Christmas performance. We had thought that due to the rising Covid cases and local authority advice, that a filmed version would be better. This would ensure that everyone gets to see their child perform but also that children, staff and their families can enjoy a Christmas break without any Covid outbreak.

We understand that the current situation is frustrating and that we are being asked to "live with Covid", however your child's safety has always been at the heart of all of our measures over the past two years. We are reviewing this situation with staff and governors and will let you know, as soon as we can, if there is a way that we can invite parents/carers into school, as an audience.



Current Covid Positive Cases in School

We currently have positive cases in Y1 x1, Y2 x1, Y5 x2 and 11 children seeking and awaiting PCR tests.

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.

Please email information to: admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk or call 01242 525616

Covid-19 Measures



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.

Some parent/carers have been confused about the two types of test, the LFT are to try and prevent spread by trying to identify asymptomatic cases, but PCR tests are the official NHS tests that confirm Covid cases.

We have been informed by some parents that the LFTs have not picked up the child's positive Covid outcome on an LFT but PCRs have confirmed, when they are showing 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
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 admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk if your child has tested positive for Covid. If you do not receive a response please email: head@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 as 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, check the most up to date government guidance around self-isolating, before returning to school.

Kind regards, Miss Kirsti Ashman and the HWPS Team.

