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Friday 22nd April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school for Summer Term 5 2022, on Monday 25th April at 8.45am. We hope that you had a restful Easter break and no doubt the children are ready and eager to continue their learning this term.

Covid Update

The Government's guidance - Living with COVID-19 - reflects the lifting of the final restrictions and the move to living with respiratory and other infections in the community.

As a school, we continue to work hard to ensure that every pupil can access face-to-face, high-quality education with minimal disruption.

Free testing for Covid-19 is no longer routinely available and cases in education and childcare settings will now be managed as for all acute respiratory illnesses. Regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in education and childcare settings.

We will continue to work hard to prevent infections spreading through thorough cleaning, ventilation and encouraging good hygiene (hand washing and use of disposable tissues to catch coughs and sneezes). In rare circumstances, due to an outbreak, settings may be advised to take extra steps to help keep children and staff safe. In this situation, you will be notified of any changes by school. We will maintain a COVID Risk Assessment.

Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people. They can go back to an education or childcare setting when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough. Children with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education or childcare setting.

If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people for three days after the day they took the test.

Childhood diseases and illnesses can be commonly spread in education and childcare settings. Parents and carers should inform school if a child is unwell and follow the school's policy for the illness to prevent further transmission.

If you are concerned about a child's illness and would like medical help, contact NHS 111.

COVID guidance for adults - anyone who is unwell and has a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, they should return to work when they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough. Adults with COVID-19 symptoms/positive test should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days.

The latest Covid advice can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Infectious Diseases

There are many infectious diseases that children can suffer from and the Government has published a comprehensive document giving helpful advice on these diseases. It provides information about school attendance and how to reduce the transmission during the infectious stage. For all cases of diarrhoea and

vomiting children should not return until at least 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea and/or vomiting and the child is well enough to return.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

This Public Health poster also provides details of illnesses and timescales required away from educational settings:

https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf

School will seek specialist advice from the UKHSA, if there is:

- A suspected case of a notifiable infectious disease.
- Evidence of higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of staff or pupil absences due to acute respiratory infection or diarrhoea and vomiting.
- Concerns of severe disease or infection causing hospitalisation of a pupil or member of staff.
- More than one infection circulating in the same group of students and staff for example chicken pox and scarlet fever.
- An outbreak or serious or unusual illness such as whooping cough or measles.

Face Coverings and Distancing

There are no requirements for face coverings in school but adults/staff who would like to continue wearing a mask are welcome to do so. Wearing face masks is also best practise if COVID symptoms are suspected or known as positive, to keep others safe in the community.

Distancing is a good precaution to control infections which are spread over short distances but again is not a requirement.

Absences

Please notify the school office if your child is unwell: Monday – Friday admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk
Wednesday – Friday lgreen@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk

Uniform

The children always look very smart in their school uniforms. In the summer months, girls can wear blue and white check dresses.

PE Kits will still be worn on PE days, as previously – see your class newsletter.

Please can we ask that on colder days layers are advised to be worn, as classrooms will be ventilated during the day. Coats will be needed, for break and lunch times, as you never know when it may rain!

On sunnier days, please can children come to school wearing sun cream and bring hats to protect their heads in the heat.

Coats – SOHO Coffee Co. Donation

After contacting the coat company with the size requirements for our pupils, some sizes are out of stock. Unfortunately, supplies have been affected over the last couple of years with uniform and larger quantities of stock. We hope to get the coats in readiness for the Autumn Term and will send out further communication to see if your child may need a larger size for September 2022.

Kind regards, Kirsti Ashman

(Head Teacher)

