



Coalway Community Infant School

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Head Teacher: Mrs. F. Hamilton B.Ed (Hons)

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2018

As this is our first newsletter of 2018 may we first wish all of our families a very

Happy New Year!

We hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas break. We are delighted to be back in the normal routine again and are looking forward to another busy year!

Staff changes for the New Year... Leanne Rawlings, our Family Support Worker, has decided to reduce her hours of work across the school site. As a result, she will no longer be working at the Infant School. Leanne has been a fantastic member of staff and we will really miss her. We are extremely grateful to her for the wonderful support she has given to so many of our pupils and families over the past 2 years and have thanked her on your behalf for this. Leanne's last day will be Tuesday 9th January but parents will still see her around site as she will be continuing her role at the Junior School.

As a result of Leanne's reduction in hours, we will shortly be welcoming a new Family Support Worker to our team this year. Mrs Lisa Mudway will be joining us as Family Support Worker in the near future. However, unfortunately Lisa fell and broke her elbow over the Christmas period so will have to fully recover before taking up her position! We will keep parents informed of her start date.

Class Topics



Our class topics this term are as follows:

Classes 1 and 2

Once Upon a Fairytale

Classes 3 and 4

There's No Place Like Home

Classes 5 and 6

Lift Off!

Topic planners are attached. We hope that you will find these informative and helpful, and would encourage parents to share the planners with their children and practice those ideas identified by staff that may help their children at home this term.

Parents will also find attached homework choices for the children for their new topics; we shall be sharing the children's fabulous work with their friends and teachers again this term and celebrating it on our homework walls.

The staff would also be delighted to hear from any parents who have artefacts or expertise relating to their child's topic which would support the children's learning.

R.E.A.D. Well done everyone! We are thrilled with how much you have been reading at home! Keep going – some of you are so close to getting that badge. Thank you.

Attendance & Punctuality



Thank you to all parents who telephone or call in to let us know of their child's absence. This is a significant help to the staff and ensures that appropriate absence records are kept for your child. As part of our attendance procedures Mrs. Nash or Mrs. Edwards may telephone you at home if we are unsure of a reason for absence.

To raise parents' awareness of their child's attendance to date this academic year we have attached a printout of their attendance. This identifies their percentage attendance since September and the number of authorised and unauthorised absences which your child has. Also listed is the number of sessions your child has attended – remember that there are two sessions per day, a morning and an afternoon session.

We are extremely proud of **35** of our children who achieved 100% attendance for terms 1 and 2 – all received special certificates during certificate assembly this morning for such a fantastic achievement. Furthermore, another **54** children achieved attendance of 95% or better, meaning that overall over **50%** of children in the school achieved attendance of 95% or better!

It is also important that all children arrive promptly every day and we would remind some parents that the teachers welcome the children into their classrooms from 8.50 a.m. ready for a 9.00 a.m. start. Classroom doors/outside area entrance gates are locked at 9.00 a.m. prompt. Any parent who is later than the 9.00 a.m. start should use the main entrance door and register their lateness with a reason at the School Office. Your attendance printout identifies the number of late registration marks your child has had this year.

The school monitors regularity of lateness and absence carefully, with referrals made for persistent absenteeism or lateness, the Government figure for persistent absence being below 90%.

Holiday Absence Regulations

Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence for holiday during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Parents will find full guidelines in our policy on the school's website, or alternatively may ask for a copy at the School Office.

Term Dates

Parents will find term dates until the end of this academic year listed at the end of this newsletter. Term dates are also available on the school's website www.coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk. All term dates are in conjunction with the Junior School and Coalway Early Years.

Adverse Weather Conditions

Please can we remind you about our general procedures regarding possible school closure in the event of severe weather:

1. Closure of the school will be posted on the school website www.coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk
2. If there is heavy snowfall overnight you will be contacted by text to your mobile phone by 8.15 a.m. the next day informing you of closure of the school.
3. If you have not received a text message you may check by telephoning the school after 8.30 a.m. to check if the school is open.
4. Listen to Radio Gloucestershire - FM 104.7 and/or Severn Sound - FM 102.4; AM 774. They will give news about school closures.
5. Access the Gloucestershire website to view the list of schools that are closed www.glosclosedschools.com
6. It may be necessary for the school to close during the course of the day. In that case, it is very important that we have an emergency contact number as a text message will be sent in the first instance. * (N.B. It is very helpful to us when parents keep each other informed as we have no guarantee of 100% coverage with the text message service).

School Intake and Junior School Transfer September 2018

Reminder... applications for admission to the Infants and Junior School for September 2018 should be completed on-line by 5pm on **15th January 2018**.

Thank you

Thank you to all parents and families who supported our many events and activities last term to boost school funds, and a special thank you to all 'Friends of Coalway Infant School' members for their time and commitment.

Totals were:-	Christmas Fayre	£1,474	
	Christmas Disco	£316	Thank you.

The children had a really enjoyable end of term, especially when Santa visited their parties with special individual gifts! All classes also received class gifts from Santa which they will be able to enjoy throughout the coming year.

We were particularly proud of our Year 1 children for producing such fantastic concerts for their parents and families. Well done children!

We also raised **£69.70** through our end of term Christmas Jumper Day for 'Save the Children' and recently received notification that we raised an incredible **£203.81** through the sale of poppies for the Royal British Legion Appeal. Thank you to everyone concerned.

School Calendars

Calendars are still available from the School Office if you wish to purchase one – price £2.00 each. Each child has contributed a picture of themselves, making them an excellent reminder of friends' birthdays!

School Lunches Menu



A new dinner menu started on the first day back – copies of the Spring 2018 menu were sent home before the holiday, running to the end of this academic year. If parents need a fresh copy, spare menus are available in the School Entrance Foyer, or on the school website.

Head Lice

Information on Head Lice is published in the newsletter at the beginning of every second term in line with the advice issued by the Gloucestershire Health Protection Unit. **It is each parent's responsibility to check hair at least once a week and to treat if necessary.** Please find below Local Authority information which we advise parents to read carefully.

The advice, briefly, is as follows:-

- An attempt should be made to remove the head lice by repeated combing of wet hair using a plastic head louse detector comb. Combs are available from pharmacies. Plastic head louse detector combs must be used.
- If this fails to clean the headlice infestations, parents should contact the Health Centre (0300 4218850) for a recommended lotion or further advice can be obtained from the school nurse via the same number.

It is most important that ...

- you check your child(ren)'s hair on a regular basis and follow this advice
- long, loose hair should be tied back to reduce the risk.

Administration of Medicine

We prefer not to give medicine to children during the course of the school day but, if it is absolutely essential that your child receives medication (i.e. to complete a course of antibiotics), arrangements may be made for staff to administer the necessary medication through agreement with Mrs Hamilton. For legal and safety reasons, parents will be required to complete and sign a short agreement form for the school to administer the medicine – all enquiries should be directed to the School Office.

Wake and Shake



A reminder that this popular club runs every Wednesday morning between 8.30 a.m. – 8.50 a.m. - All welcome. We would ask that children arrive promptly, for an 8.30 a.m. start to avoid disruption. Thank you.

Year 2 children will start their **clubs** next week



with **Let's Get Cooking Club**



also returning next week. Parents should have received letters last term with dates for their child to attend these clubs. Please ask at the School Office for any further information or Year 2 parents may check classroom windows for details of this term's clubs.

'Bend the Rules' Non-Uniform Day

On the last day of term, **Friday 9th February**, your child may come to school in clothes other than their uniform, put gel in their hair, wear trainers and even wear nail varnish.... 'bending the rules' for a day **for 50p!** The children may also buy some sweets (no more than 30p please) in the afternoon as a special treat.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

January

February

Friday 9th

'Bend the rules' non-uniform day

Half Term – Monday 12th – Friday 16th February

Monday 19th

Return to School

Reminder... Please find listed below term dates for the rest of this academic year. All term dates are in conjunction with the Junior School and Coalway Early Years

TERM DATES 2017-2018

TERM 3 – 2018

School Begins - Wednesday 3rd January

School Ends - Friday 9th February

TERM 4 – 2018

School Begins - Monday 19th February

School Ends - Thursday 29th March

TERM 5 – 2018

School Begins - Monday 16th April

Bank Holiday - Monday 7th May

School Ends - Friday 25th May

TERM 6 – 2018

School Begins - Monday 4th June

School Ends - Friday 20th July

**In-Service - Monday 23rd July
Tuesday 24th July**