



COALWAY COMMUNITY INFANT SCHOOL
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Newsletter: November 2020

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a fabulous holiday!

Term 1

What a wonderful first term we have had! The children have settled back into school life really well and it has been wonderful to welcome our new Reception children to our school family. The children are enjoying their time together with their friends and teachers, are happy and thriving, and enjoying their learning and new topics. We hope you have had an opportunity to look at our Term 1 'Coalway Kids News' (available on the website if you missed it!) to see some of the lovely things they have been doing so far. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers for making this such a successful and happy start for the children, despite the challenging circumstances.

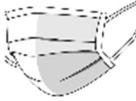
Going forwards...

To help us maintain this school routine we would ask parents to continue to be vigilant in following Government guidance, with particular regard to hand hygiene, social distancing and mixing with others. Everyone's support has been fantastic so far and enabled us to keep everyone safe and every class fully open throughout Term 1. As we spend more time indoors during the Autumn/Winter, the possible risk of transmission will increase so everyone's vigilance will be vital. It is important to remember:

- If a child/parent/family member in the household presents with any symptoms of coronavirus, check the NHS website and book a test as soon as possible. Do not go out or come to school.
- Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get the result – only leave home to have a test. Anyone you live with must also stay at home until you get your result.
- Inform the school of the test result as soon as you receive it and before your child returns to school.
- If the test results are negative, your child may return to school when they are feeling better. If the tests are positive, your child and all family members within the household are to self-isolate for at least 10 days. NHS test and trace will contact you and advice will be given.

National Lockdown

With a 4 week national lockdown period starting on Thursday 5th November we have made a few changes to our drop off and collection procedures across the site. The following procedures will be in place for the whole of Term 2:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All adults should wear masks or visors at drop off and collection times. Please ensure that masks are in place before entering the site and are worn until you reach Holcot Road.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only one adult should come on to site to drop off/collect each child.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents should not arrive on site until their designated drop off/collection 'window' to reduce the numbers of adults waiting/mixing at any one time. Parents should use the full 10 minute window; Classes 1, 3 and 5 are to arrive on site any time between 8.45-8.55a.m. and not before.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents of children in Classes 2, 4 and 6 should not arrive before 9.00a.m. and may drop off any time until 9.10a.m. However, parents in Classes 2, 4 and 6 who have Junior School siblings may arrive for 8.55a.m. as the Junior school drop off window extends to 8.55 a.m. These parents should not be on site before 8.55a.m. to ensure there is no overlap with other class drop off times.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents should drop off or collect their child and leave site immediately afterwards ('drop and go') and not stop to chat with friends or relatives, in accordance with national lockdown guidance re. mixing outside of households.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents should wait with their children in their designated class waiting area only.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For their safety, we strongly advise any adult who is classified within the 'clinically extremely vulnerable' or 'clinically vulnerable' categories to avoid coming on to the school site this term. This includes adults over the age of 70 and anyone over 28 weeks pregnant.

As stated above, we are very grateful for everyone's support to date in following site safety guidelines and thank you in advance for your anticipated continuing support this term during the national lockdown period and to the end of term. Our school community's safety is our paramount concern in establishing the above and hopefully, with everyone's support, we can continue to safeguard the children, yourselves, the staff and all our families and minimise spread of the virus in the wider community. Thank you.

Curriculum Topic Planners



Last term's topic continues until the end of this term for Classes 5 and 6 – 'Explorers in the Great Outdoors'. Classes 1-4 start new topics this term – 'Super Storytellers!' for Classes 1 and 2 and 'Marvellous Me!' for Classes 3 & 4; parents will find topic planners on the Class Pages of the website by the end of the week, and these will also be sent via your child's Purple Mash account. It will appear under your alert.

Home learning this term



Homework choices for the children for this term's topic will also be sent via your child's Purple Mash account. All parents should have received log-in details during last term to enable access to your child's page; Any difficulties, please telephone/email the School Office.

Once homework is completed, please save your work or send to your child's Class Teacher via your Purple Mash account, so that we can share the children's fabulous work with their friends and teachers and celebrate it on our classroom homework walls. We have really enjoyed sharing their work to date – thank you to those parents who emailed this through last term.

Remote learning during isolation periods



Although we hope that the majority of children will have an uninterrupted schooling experience this term, there is the possibility that an individual child, a class or year group bubble, or the whole school, will need to self-isolate for a period of time. We have therefore put in place a plan for remote learning so that all children can continue with their education while at home if need be. Please see our Remote Learning Plan on the school website for further details. We would like to thank everyone who completed our home learning parent survey last term - we have tried to include your feedback from the parent's survey in our remote learning offer.

What will remote home learning look like?

- In the case of any school closure period in the coming months, we will add your child's home learning activities on to our Purple Mash platform.
- A weekly plan will be uploaded which will include links to teaching videos/activities.
- Individual activities will also be put onto the Purple Mash site. Activities off the site itself may also be set for pupils to do at home.
- The platform provides the opportunity for parents and children to save completed work for the class teacher to see to enable them to provide feedback on the children's work.
- Teachers will check the work that the children have uploaded and provide feedback to them each week.
- They will also provide a telephone/video call opportunity each week during a closure period.

Ensuring log-ins are working!

Parents and children have received logins and passwords for the following platforms:

Purple Mash



Bug Club



Microsoft Teams



It is important that all parents ensure that all the log-ins are working well in advance of any possible future home-learning period. We would also encourage all parents to become familiar with using the sites and to contact us should you encounter any difficulties. (Class teachers are also ensuring that the children are becoming familiar with Purple Mash and Bug Club by exploring these platforms and modelling their use within lessons).

Parents will find user guides for Purple Mash and Bug Club attached and also on the Class page of the website. Any queries, please don't hesitate to contact us.

R.E.A.D. 'Read Everyday And Discover'



Thank you to everyone who is busy reading at home with the children; your support is very much appreciated. The children are really enjoying the Bug Club books, their bookmarks are filling up fast and the children are really excited about receiving their first shiny badges!

We continue to prioritise reading in school and are giving the children daily opportunities to read books, as we are unable to send reading books home currently. We would encourage you to continue to read at home as often as you can to help the children develop confidence and fluency.

Phonic cards



Learning phonic sounds is a vital part of learning to read. We practice our phonemes every day in school to help the children remember the different sounds by sight.

The staff will be sending a pack of phonic flashcards home with your child this week so that they can practice these at home as well. Any support you can give your child in learning these will make a huge difference to their reading ability and confidence!

Each child will receive a pack of sounds that they are currently learning, with some suggested ideas for games to make learning them more fun. Your child's Class Teacher will send home further sounds during the term/year to add to their pack. We hope you will be able to support us and your child by practising these at home - thank you in advance for your help.

Word cards

Your child will also receive a set of words that they are learning to practice further at home. Please use the suggested ideas sheet to learn these in the same way as the phonic sounds. (N.B. All of these words are 'common exception words' which are not phonically decodable, so please don't try to 'sound them out').

Other curriculum news...

PE Days

From next week, each class will have a designated 'PE day' in school. On this day the children will be doing a range of PE activities in the Hall and outdoors as well as exploring the grounds through lots of different activities. (With more limited opportunities during the national lockdown for outdoor play and activity we will do our best to keep the children really active on these days!)

On your child's PE day we would like your child to come to school dressed in PE kit that is suitable for them to work in both indoors and outside: We suggest joggers/leggings, sweatshirts/hoodies (no slogans please), trainers, a warm, waterproof coat, a hat and gloves. The children may also bring in a pair of wellies to change into that they can keep in school for the term.

Your child's PE day will be as follows:

Classes 1 and 2: Friday

Class 3: Tuesday

Class 4: Thursday

Class 5: Monday

Class 6: Wednesday



Singing in School



Singing in school remains a real challenge for us due to current Government guidance. In accordance with the guidance, we are currently unable to gather for our usual whole school assemblies or to sing together as a whole class in our classrooms. At Coalway we love to sing and during assemblies all children would usually learn and perform whole school songs. We feel that it is so important to get our children singing and enjoying performing. Singing is also great for our mental health and really lifts everyone's mood.

Therefore, from this term, we intend introducing group singing sessions indoors and outside, to enable the children to keep singing! As we learn new songs we will add them (and the lyrics) to the Music page on the website for you and your children to listen to and join in with at home (under the Curriculum tab; Music Subject Page). We hope you will love the songs as much as we do; Happy singing!

Communication between Home & School

Should you have any important messages or queries for staff please don't hesitate to continue to telephone or email the School Office directly - we will get back to you as soon as we can.



It was so lovely to meet parents virtually or talk via the telephone at our parents' evenings last term. This was also a great opportunity to trial Microsoft Teams and iron out any connection issues; thank you for taking the time to set this up.

As COVID guidelines mean that direct face to face contact has to be restricted in school, we hope to offer parents a virtual or telephone meeting every term (similar to Term 1 parents' evening and via MS Teams ideally), so that we are able to share the children's successes with you and keep you informed about their progress during the year. It will also give us an opportunity to show you some of the work they will have been doing as we are unable to invite you in to school or hold open evenings.



Starting this term, Purple Mash will also provide staff and parents with another line of communication, be this either feedback on homework or communication during a self-isolation/school closure period.

ParentMail



From this week, the School Office will be using ParentMail to contact and send information/notifications to parents. All messages, letters and forms will be sent directly to parents via ParentMail.

To do this, we need parents to ensure they register and download the ParentMail app - See letter attached for further details. Parents should have received a registration email on Monday morning this week to enable them to set this up; please contact us if you have not received this.



School Meals

Hot school meals will be available for all children from the start of Term 2. All of our children are entitled to a hot cooked meal every day at no cost to parents. This is part of the Government's Universal Infant Free School Meals programme which provides free daily school meals to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils across the country.

Fresh meals are cooked daily by Caterlink (our meals provider) at the Junior School. The children can choose which meal they would like from the menu each morning, with their teachers, which we then order from the kitchen for that lunchtime. Parents will find details of this term's menu attached and also on the school website. The menu has 2 options to choose from each day. Please note that there is no longer a packed lunch (baguette) option available.

School Photos

Individual school photographs were taken on Wednesday 21st October. Parents should now be able to view the proofs online using their child's code (taken home on photo day) and be able to order directly with Academy Portraits. Any queries please contact the School Office.

Events this month...



Friendship/'Pick me up' weeks

We will be holding our annual Friendship weeks over the next two weeks, (in conjunction with national anti-bullying week), when we will be talking about friendship, our behaviour towards others and reinforcing our Coalway Bees rules and our 'Pick me up' positive behaviour message. We will share our work with parents through our next Coalway Kids' Newsletter and the school's website.



Children in Need ... 'Spot-tacular!'

We shall be raising money for Children in Need by holding a **non-uniform day** on **Friday 13th November**. Children may dress in spotty clothes for the day, for a donation of 50p per child. Alternatively, if they prefer, they may dress as Pudsey Bear or wear Pudsey or Children in Need items.

We will be giving the children 'on the spot' challenges of different sorts during the day as well as doing Pudsey themed activities in class, so if parents would like to send in any additional monies for completion of these challenges please do so! We are not able to sell wristbands this year so any donations you are able to make will be greatly appreciated.



Christmas Dates for diarycoming next month!

Other Information...

Admission to the Junior School September 2021

Year 2 Parents should soon receive a letter detailing the admissions process for transfer to the Junior School for next September. All Year 2 parents should complete the on-line application form by Friday 15th January 2021 – full details to follow within the Admissions letter.

School Intake September 2021

The same admission process applies to parents of pupils due to start school in September 2021. If you have a child or know of anyone who has a child who intends to start at this school in September 2021, please ask them to contact the school to register their child. As visits to the school are not possible this year, prospective parents will soon find virtual information available on the school website.

Adverse Weather Conditions



As winter approaches, a reminder 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.

'Operation Christmas Child' Boxes



If families wish to do their own shoeboxes, the nearest drop off point to Coalway is at the Post Office in Bream. This is open for collections on the week of 9th November. Please follow the links below for further information.

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/operation-christmas-child-resources/labels-leaflets/>

<https://shoebonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk/>

And finally...

Thank
you!

for your generous donations for the Forest Food Bank; a car full of food boxes was donated from your Harvest collection. The Forest Foodbank in Coleford were extremely grateful for our contributions; please see a letter of thanks and certificate attached.