



COALWAY COMMUNITY INFANT SCHOOL

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## Term 4 Newsletter



Following the Government's recent announcement, we are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. It will be wonderful to see everyone again and have the children back together; we have missed them tremendously and know they have missed their friends too.

We are keen to quickly return to our normal, regular school routine as fully as possible and are all ready to help the children through this next 'recovery' stage. Our priority, as ever, will be the children's well-being and education; to ensure that they are well taught and cared for, are happy and safe, and that they return to making good progress with their learning.



Well done to all parents, carers and staff for getting through this partial closure period! Thank you not only for keeping the children safe but also for all your efforts to support the children with their home learning over the past term. Our families have done such an amazing job and we send our thanks to parents, carers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters for supporting the children through this period at home – we are so grateful to everyone involved for your support in keeping the children learning and on track. We hope you have had an opportunity to look at our Term 3 'Coalway Kids News' (available on the website if you missed it) to see some of the wonderful work the children have completed. Well done children and parents! We very much appreciate your support.

Thank you also for keeping communication and the children's engagement with their teachers going through Teams calls, telephone calls, Purple Mash, etc. and by uploading their work for them to share with their teachers – this ongoing communication will make a big difference to your child's ability to make a smooth transition back into school on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

### **This term...**

Despite everything looking so much more positive and hopeful for the future, we are still in a national lockdown period and all need to remain vigilant in protecting each other from any possible transmission of the virus. The 'stay at home' directive is still in force for the remainder of this term.

Our risk assessments have been reviewed for the children's full return; updates will be available on our website by Monday, in the 'Covid-19 Information' section. Please be assured that we will continue to do everything we possibly can to keep everyone safe and to minimise the risk of any further closure periods for the children, and know that we can rely on your help with this as well. Your support with all necessary procedures has been brilliant to date; we appreciate your patience

and co-operation. Although some people may be becoming tired of all the restrictions, it is essential that we stick to them for everyone's safety - we just need to keep going a little longer... brighter times are coming!

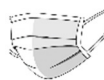
Please remember:

**Remain very vigilant for symptoms:**

- Keep checking everyone in the household for coronavirus symptoms and react accordingly;
- Do not send your child to school if they have any of the following symptoms, or come on to site yourself if you have either:
  - a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
  - a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
  - a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.
- 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. Anyone you live with must also stay at home until you get your result.
- Keep school informed of reasons for absence and of test results, so that we can take appropriate action. 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.
- We are also aware that there have been a number of other common symptoms reported pre/post COVID diagnosis, including sore throat, aching limbs, tiredness and headache, so please only send your child to school if they are fully well.
- Parents may also wish to take advantage of the Government's recent announcement that households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home as schools return from 8<sup>th</sup> March. Please keep checking the gov.uk website for further information as it is published. This [guidance](#) provides information on who can be tested and how you can get a test.

**Drop off and collection:**

- Wear a mask/visor face covering. Ensure that masks are in place before entering the site and are worn until you reach Holcot Road.
- Keep your distance from others.
- Follow the one way system to enter /leave site.
- Arrive at your allotted time to help to keep bubbles separate and reduce the numbers of adults waiting/mixing at any one time. Don't arrive early and overlap with other class drop off times.
- Use the full 10 minute window to drop off/collect your child to reduce contact with others. Classes 1, 3 and 5 are to arrive on site any time between 8.45-8.55a.m. & 2.45-2.55p.m. Classes 2, 4 and 6 should not arrive before 9.00a.m. and may drop off any time until 9.10a.m. / 3.00-3.10p.m. 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.
- Only one adult should come on to site to drop off/collect each child if possible.
- Keep your child by your side whilst waiting at class designated areas and when on pathways.



- Keep a 2m distance from staff when they open classroom doors and avoid blocking entrances for the children entering their classrooms. Pass on important messages via email/telephone if you can.
- Drop your child off and go – don't stop to chat with friends or relatives in accordance with national guidance re. mixing outside of households.
- For their safety, we continue to 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.
- Don't come to the School Office/ entrance foyer; please ring with any queries. We will be using the entrance foyer as an Office from 8<sup>th</sup> March and the door will be locked.

#### At home:

- Continue with increased hand washing, cleaning and hygiene practices;
- Limit mixing with others outside your household and observe social distancing.

Thank you for your continuing support. Our school community's safety is our paramount concern - 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.

#### In school...

#### Class Topic Plans



Our class topics this term are as follows:

Classes 1 and 2                      Let's Investigate! (continuing from Term 3)

Classes 3 and 4                      How does your garden grow?

Classes 5 and 6                      Castles



Parents will find topic planners on the Class Pages of the website by 8<sup>th</sup> March and these will also be sent via your child's Purple Mash account.



#### Home learning this term

Homework choices for the children for this term's topic will also be added to your child's Purple Mash account, which may also include '2Do' activities from the Purple Mash site itself for pupils to do at home.

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 again this term.



**Completed work and feedback** We would love to see any of the children's completed work from Term 3 that we haven't already seen. If you have completed work that hasn't been photographed/ uploaded to Purple Mash please send it in so we can celebrate it with the children and add it to their topic folder. (N.B: This will need to be in a named bag to be left in quarantine in school for a period of time before we do so). We have displayed the children's home learning so everyone can see it on their return next week and will add this work to it once quarantined.

**Loaned devices:** Please return loaned devices directly to Class Teachers on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, observing social distancing.





## Reading

This term, we will continue to prioritise reading in school. We will be spending a lot of time in class practicing our phonics, words and reading as much as we can throughout each day. The children will be reading books in school (as we are unable to send reading books home), as well as reading their online Bug Club books, reading in groups and as a class, as we usually do. As much practice as possible will help them progress with their reading skills and further develop their love of reading.

We would encourage you to continue to read at home as often as you can to help the children develop their confidence and fluency. The children will be continuing to use Bug Club to practice their reading at home this term. As previously, teachers will update the children's books on a weekly basis, keep track of how many times your child reads and continue to stamp their Smiley face bookmark in school each time they do so. When their bookmark is stamped the maximum amount of times your child will then receive a shiny enamel badge which they can wear with pride on their school sweatshirt. So many children completed their READ badges last term whilst at home – well done children and parents! We hope they will be able to collect them all, feel proud of this achievement and gain confidence in their reading abilities as they do so.

## Phonics

Please also continue to practice your child's phonemes and words at home using the flashcards and practical games we have sent home if you can – little and often will really help their knowledge. Your child's Class Teacher will send home further sounds as necessary during the term to add to their pack. Any support you can give your child in learning these will make a huge difference to their reading ability and confidence!

## Singing



We loved the 'Singsational Challenge' performances many of you sent in at the end of last term – thank you; we hope you had fun learning the songs!



We feel it is so important to get our children singing and enjoying performing. Singing is also so good for our mental health, as it really lifts everyone's mood. We will therefore be returning to our group singing sessions indoors and outside, to enable the children to keep singing this term! 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!

## PE/Outdoor Learning Days

We will be returning to Class 'PE days' in school from 8<sup>th</sup> March. The children love this day in school and we are conscious that it is even more important at the moment with more limited opportunities for outdoor play and activity during the national lockdown period (which will continue into the Easter holiday). We will therefore do our best to keep the children really active and get outdoors as much as possible on these days!

... A reminder that on these days the children will need 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: Wednesday

Class 4: Thursday

Class 5: Monday

Class 6: Tuesday



## Remote learning during isolation periods



Although we very much hope that the children will have an uninterrupted schooling experience once they return on March 8<sup>th</sup>, there is the possibility that an individual child, or a class or year group bubble will need to self-isolate for a period of time. Changes to provision are likely to be made at short notice in these cases. In such circumstances, we will return to our remote learning offer as was in place during Term 3 so that these children can continue with their education while at home if need be. [Remote Learning Plan \(coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk\)](https://coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk)

## Communication between Home & School

As a safety measure, the School Office will remain working virtually this term. Parents will not be able to enter the school building with queries for Office staff; they should continue to email/telephone instead. The school entrance foyer door will be kept locked during the school day as this area will be used as an additional Office space this term.

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. Please don't expect to discuss things with staff at classroom doorways for safety reasons – this also causes an obstruction and safety issue for children entering/leaving their classrooms.

## ParentMail



The School Office will continue to send information/messages/letters to parents using ParentMail. We would highly recommend parents download the ParentMail App for ease of use.



Staff have thoroughly enjoyed their weekly calls with parents throughout the school closure period. As COVID guidelines mean that direct face to face contact has to be restricted in school, we aim to offer parents a Microsoft Teams or telephone catch up meeting later this term so that we are able to keep you informed about your child's successes, progress and priorities going forwards. Once the children have had a few weeks to settle back into school Teachers will be in touch with parents to arrange this.



Staff will also check Purple Mash accounts once a week to give feedback on any home learning completed. Teachers will not be checking individual Purple Mash emails every day as was the case during the school closure period, but parents may also send emails /messages this way if they are less urgent. This line of communication will also be used by staff and parents during a self-isolation or further school closure period.

## Attendance

All pupils are expected to return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and it will be important to get them back into their regular routine immediately. Attendance is mandatory from this point in time.

As mentioned above, if your child is unwell and cannot attend school please could you inform the School Office as early as possible (preferably by 10.00 a.m.) on the first day of absence - telephone number as listed above. As part of our attendance procedures Mrs. Nash or Mrs. Edwards may contact you via telephone or text if we are unsure of a reason for absence.

We would also ask that all parents ensure we have up to date contact details within the School Office to ensure that we are able to contact you in an emergency, such as your child becoming ill during the school day or presenting with coronavirus symptoms. It will be essential that we can make immediate contact with you in these circumstances and that your child is collected as soon as possible.

## School Meals

Hot school meals will be available for all children from March 8<sup>th</sup>. Meals will be served in the children's class bubbles, the fresh meals 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 will then order from the kitchen for that lunchtime. Parents will find details of this term's menu on the school website, [Spring Menu 2021 \(coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk\)](http://coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk) The menu has 3 options to choose from each day. Please note that there is no longer a packed lunch (baguette) option available.

## Uniform

If your child has outgrown their uniform, school sweatshirts and other items are available for sale from Mrs. Nash or Mrs. Edwards in the School Office. Current prices are as follows:

Waterproof Fleece £19.50 ..... Sweatshirt £8.95..... Cardigans £9.95..... Book Bag £3.75.....Dap Bag £2.80.....Cap £2.00 ...Water bottle £1.10 ... Water bottle caps £0.30

Good quality second hand uniform is also available, with items available for up to 50p.

Please contact the School Office to place an order/arrange a time for collection in advance of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

If your child's school shoes no longer fit please do not worry; we appreciate that shoe shops are not open. Send your child in with the best alternatives you can until you can replace items. Please support our normal uniform expectations.

**Items from Home:** The children should only bring essential items to school each day, i.e. lunch boxes (in a bag if necessary), water bottles, hats, coats.

## Family Support

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need any additional support or advice during what continues to be a challenging time. Please remember that Class teachers, Miss Roberts (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator), Lisa Mudway (Family Support Worker), Mrs Hamilton (Head teacher) and Mrs Burke (Deputy Head) are available for advice/support at any time should you require it. In line with COVID regulations we will not be able to meet anyone in school but will be available via telephone/video link. There are also a breadth of agencies/contacts we may be able to put you in touch with or signpost you to. This link [Support Agencies \(coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk\)](http://coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk) also includes information about a number of agencies available to offer support.

## Events this month...

Sadly we will be unable to invite you in to school to share in any events due to the COVID restrictions, but hope to keep you informed of these virtually or via Coalway Kids News.

## World Book Day

This year's World Book Day takes place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March, with the children taking part in lots of different book themed activities at home this year. We hope you enjoy the many activities the teachers have suggested for you this week and are able to read/share lots of different stories with your child.

On their return to school we will give each child their World Book Day £1.00 Book Voucher, as issued each World Book Day to every child across the UK. This voucher can be used to receive £1.00 off a book worth £2.99 or more, or alternatively it may be exchanged for one of the specially produced £1.00 books. (These are listed on the reverse of your voucher).



### **Red Nose Day**

Comic Relief Red Nose Day takes place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March, which will be a Superhero day in school! The children can come to school in non-uniform for the day for a donation of 50p to Comic Relief by choosing one of the following ideas:

- Dress as your favourite Superhero
- Dress as the person who is your 'superhero', e.g. a family member (mum, dad, grandad, sister) or a famous person.
- In recognition of the fantastic jobs that our essential service workers have done during the pandemic, dress as one of these 'Superheroes', for example as a nurse, doctor, paramedic, Police officer, supermarket worker, firefighter, member of the armed services etc.

The choice is yours! The aim of the day is to have fun and make everyone smile whilst raising funds for Comic Relief. The children will also have the chance to make superhero masks and use their superhero powers to complete some superhero challenges and quizzes during the day! (N.B: Please note that we will not be selling Comic Relief Red Noses this year).

### **Other Information...**

#### **Term dates**

School finishes for the Easter holiday on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Term 5 starts Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Term dates for the remainder of this academic year are available on the school website here. [Term Dates 2020-21 \(coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk\)](http://coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk)

#### **Admission to the Junior School September 2021 & School Intake September 2021**

Parents will receive notification of school places during the Easter holiday, on 16<sup>th</sup> April. If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the School Office.