



Coalway Community Infant School

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NEWSLETTER MAY 2018

Welcome back...
We hope that everyone had an enjoyable Easter break



Staff news

After many happy years at Coalway, Mrs Bigwood has decided to retire from her position as Teaching Assistant at the end of May. Mrs Bigwood has been at Coalway for 21 years and will be very sadly missed by us all. She is absolutely fabulous! She is hoping to now have more time to enjoy her various interests out of school and spend more time with her family and grandchildren, time which we think she has thoroughly deserved! Until then, she is really looking forward to enjoying this term with us and the children. She has been a fantastic member of staff and we are extremely grateful to her for the wonderful support, dedication, hard work, care and commitment she has shown during her time with us.

Class Topics & Homework

Parents will find topic planners attached, giving details of the work that your child will be doing in their class over the next term as well as homework choices for this term's topics. If required, spare copies are available in the entrance foyer or via the website. Topics are:

Classes 1 & 2 'All Aboard the Magic Carpet'

Classes 3 & 4 'How does your garden grow?'

Classes 5 & 6 'Journey around the Globe'

Thank you to those parents who have further supported our curriculum work by sending in artefacts or related information during the course of the term – this is greatly appreciated and welcomed by the staff and children.

Swimming



Swimming lessons for Year 2 children started on **Wednesday 25th April**. School Fund is subsidising this valuable activity again this year.

Coalway Gardening Days!



We are hoping to have some gardening days in May if the weather is kind to us, when all staff and children across the school will be working in the school grounds, improving our garden areas! We would like the children to come in to school in old comfortable clothes, and wearing wellies or strong footwear may also be advisable as we may get muddy! Please look out for final dates in book bags or texts.

Admission to Infant & Junior School

Parents should have been notified on Monday 16th April regarding school placements for September 2018 – both for Reception and Junior School places. We shall be holding a meeting on Thursday 17th May for parents of children due to start school in September 2018, with the Junior School holding a new intake meeting for parents in term 6 - details to follow.

Attendance



We are extremely proud of **52** of our children who achieved 100% attendance for terms 3 and 4 – all received special certificates during assembly this week for such a fantastic achievement. Furthermore, another **70** children achieved attendance of 95% or better, meaning that overall an incredible **72%** of children in the school achieved attendance of 95% or better! Well done!

The school continues to monitor the children's attendance carefully. To ensure that parents are aware of their child's attendance to date parents will find attached a print out of their child's attendance, following on from the one we distributed in January. We would ask that you read this carefully and take notice of improvements or downward trends to January's printout. We would hope that those children with noticeably lower attendance will be able to improve their percentage total during the remaining two terms of this academic year.

Your child's **percentage attendance** is identified on the printout and the percentage of **authorised** and **unauthorised absences** noted. 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. If applicable, the number of **late** registration marks your child has had this year should also be easily identified.

It is 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%.



Term Dates for next academic year

Term dates for this and next academic year are 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.

Holiday Absence Regulations

As from 1st September 2013, 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.

School Lunches Menu



A new dinner menu started on the first day back – copies of the Summer 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.

There will be a change to the published menu on Friday 18th May. To celebrate the **Royal Wedding** Caterlink will be making a special picnic box lunch of either fish & chips or vegetarian hotdog & chips, with sweetcorn and salad, followed by flapjack.

Scholastic Book Club



Please find this month's leaflet attached. We would ask that all orders are returned to the School Office by Friday 11th May.

Wake and Shake



A reminder that this popular club runs every Wednesday morning between 8.30 a.m. – 8.50 a.m. All welcome.

Site Security/Safeguarding Notices

Our automated main entrance gates on Coalway Road are working really well and have certainly improved safety, security and safeguarding across the school site.

The gates are closed throughout the day, with the pedestrian gate opened for **10 minutes** at either end of the day to enable parents to collect their children. The gates open at **8.40 a.m. Monday, Tuesday & Friday** and at **8.25 a.m. on Wednesday & Thursday** (for Infant & Junior School Wake & Shake sessions). At the end of the day the gate opens at **2.50 p.m.**

The Holcot Road pedestrian gate will also be opened 10 minutes before the start and end of the school day for the Junior School, at **8.40 a.m. and 3.05 p.m.** This time at the end of the day is a change to last term and has been altered to improve safeguarding/security for the Junior School. Infant School parents will therefore need to use the Coalway Road gate to collect their child at 3.00 p.m. The Holcot Road gate (and wooden gate by the playground) will then be open at 3.05p.m. to enable parents to leave site by this route.

Should anyone need to collect their child or access the site **during the school day**, the main entrance gates on Coalway Road have an **intercom** system – please just press the button for the provider you require (Coalway Early Years, Coalway Infant, Coalway Junior, Coalway Kids Club or the Junior School Canteen). When leaving the site, there is a **silver press pad** – please 'press pad to exit' and the gate should automatically open and close behind you.



Parking on site is restricted to staff and authorised access only. Parents should park outside the school site to deliver and collect children, ensuring that they do not park on the double yellow lines or drop their children off in the school gateway. We would also ask that parents help us to continue our good relationships with our neighbours by not parking in front of driveways or on grass verges on Coalway or Holcot Roads or the Eskimarket's mobile home park.

Parents are asked to closely supervise their children at the beginning and end of the school day whilst waiting on site for staff to open the classroom doors at 8.50 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. and also whilst waiting for Junior siblings. Please ensure that children are not running around the paths or on to the roadway as staff cars are still arriving/leaving site at these times and pedestrians need plenty of room to follow the pathway. Children coming to school on scooters or bikes should dismount when on the school pathways to avoid accidents with toddlers or pedestrians.

Thank you. Please ensure that all family members who drop off or collect your child from school are made aware of the above.

Other Improvements During the Easter holiday we have also replaced some fencing along the perimeter of the field to improve site security even further. We also completed re-decoration of the classrooms – all six classrooms have now been repainted during the course of this year, which has really improved the learning environment for the children.

Head Lice

Information on Head Lice is published in the newsletter at the beginning of every other term in line with the advice issued by the Gloucestershire Health Protection Unit. **It is each parents' 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 on 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.

Thank you

Thank you

Thank you

Thank you to the children, all parents and families who supported our many events and activities last term to boost school funds or charity collections... and a special thank you to the staff and 'Friends of Coalway Infant School' Committee for their hard work in organising and running some of these events.



The children all completed a mile for **Sport Relief** and raised an incredible **£788, which is an amazing total!** Thank you to everyone for your generous sponsorship and donations which enabled us to achieve such a fantastic total!

£480 was raised through the **Easter disco**



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

Summer Fayre



Our main fundraising event during the Summer term is the Annual Summer Fayre held in conjunction with the Junior School and Coalway Early Years. The Summer Fayre will take place after school on **Friday 29th June** so please keep this date free in your diaries!

If anyone is available to help on the day this would be greatly appreciated - please see Mrs. Hamilton or the School Office as soon as possible.

Before the end of this term, every family across the site will be receiving **raffle tickets** to purchase or sell to friends and family which we hope you will be able to support us with to get our fundraising well underway. We will also be holding a **Donation Day** on Friday 22nd June when items may be sent in to the schools. Thank you.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

April

Monday 16th
Wednesday 23rd

Return to School
Swimming starts for Year 2 children

May

Monday 7th
Thursday 17th
Thursday 24th
Friday 25th

Gardening Days
May Day Bank Holiday
New Intake meeting
Class & Leavers photos
End of term

Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June Holiday

June

Monday 4th

Return to school