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Stephanie Severn (Mrs.) – Head Teacher

21 January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

The icy conditions have been a little challenging at times this week – but the children have all managed really well. We have kept going with our KS2 Daily Mile sessions on the recreation ground, but we are keeping this under review due to the mud! It is good for our cross country team that we have kept going because this means they are well prepared for next week's cross country competition. At last, a competition that we think will go ahead. The event is due to take place on Thursday afternoon at Newent Community School, starting at 2.30pm. Today, we have heard that spectators will be able to attend the event too. All attendees are asked to respect appropriate spacing. Good luck to the team. We know they are really looking forward to the event. We got gold (girls) and silver (boys) last year. I wonder if we can match that.

Dance Days

On Thursday morning, Wagtails and Woodpeckers are going to spend the morning with some specialist dance teachers who are going to introduce them to dance skills from other cultures. Wagtails will experience an Indian workshop and Woodpeckers will experience a Chinese dance workshop. Look out for the pictures on the class pages of the website. There is no charge for these activities and the children will wear their PE kits.

Covid Update

The rates of coronavirus locally appear to be falling and you will be aware that the guidance is changing and rules are being relaxed. We welcome this but also want to be sensible about how we move forwards. We have had no new cases for the last couple of days, but we are aware of how this infection is transmitting through families. We have seen the pattern that one person in the family becomes infected, followed by another family member 3 or 4 days later. It is worth being aware of this pattern and considering the use of Lateral Flow Tests as recommended in the close contacts guidance.

Contacts who are not legally required to self-isolate:

If you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, you are not legally required to self-isolate if you are fully vaccinated or you are below the age of 18 years. COVID-19 vaccines reduce the risk of you becoming severely ill if you catch COVID-19. If you are vaccinated against COVID-19 you may still catch it and pass it on to others, even if you do not have any symptoms. If you have had contact with someone who has COVID-19 you are at higher risk of becoming infected yourself.

If you are not legally required to self-isolate, you are strongly advised to take daily LFD tests for 7 days. LFD tests are very good at identifying people who have high levels of coronavirus and are most likely to pass on infection to others, even if you do not have symptoms.

We recommend that if a member of your household has had a positive test result and you wish your child to attend school, you might consider daily LFD tests for your child. This will help protect our school community.

Holiday Free School Meal Voucher Scheme

This February half term (Monday 21st – Friday 25th February), Gloucestershire County Council is providing vouchers to parents who have signed up to the Holiday Free School Meals (FSM) scheme. These vouchers are provided by Gloucestershire County Council as part of its commitment to 'no child goes hungry'. The vouchers are funded through COVID-19 grant funding, and is separate to that of the term time free school meals.

Parents who have signed up to the scheme will receive a voucher for £15 for each child who is eligible for FSM which will cover the February half term week. The scheme is eligible for children aged 4-16 years old. Parents who have signed up previously do not need to reregister, they have already been included. If you think you might be entitled to benefit from this scheme, applications for Holiday Free School Meal Vouchers for the February half term period is now open until the 14th February. Please visit <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/holiday-school-meal-vouchers/>

Voucher emails will be sent out between 15th and 16th of February. Please check junk/spam email folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there. If you have not received vouchers by then please get in contact by emailing childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

Have a lovely weekend.
Stephanie Severn