



Newsletter 8
15th January 2021
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"A Church School Community aspiring for all to live life to the full"

Dear Parents,

Welcome Back: I know I have already communicated with you since our return after New Year, but in order to make communications more manageable, I will revert back to our fortnightly newsletter to keep you informed of everything. Unless there is anything extra ordinary to communicate, please look out for the newsletter, our school website, or the children's google classroom pages for the information you need.



Value for the Term: This term's value is Compassion. We will use this time to look for opportunities to be compassionate to one another, as encouraged to by Paul to the Ephesians! "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as God forgave you." (Ephesians 4: 32). Please use the Home-School Value sheets to help develop this value with your child at home.

Before and After School Club: Reminder that this is open now as usual, but next week **the After School Club will be closed on Thursday 21st January for staff training. Sorry for any inconvenience caused by this.**

Please use links to booking forms below. Any queries can be sent via:

- Email: beforeandafterschool@holytrinity.gloucs.sch.uk
- Telephone/Text: **07548 592989** (Note – this phone is only monitored during the hours the club is operating)

Booking Forms

<i>Week beginning</i>	<i>Link to booking form</i>
Monday 18 th January (closed on afternoon of 21 st January)	https://forms.gle/SbvCZpc1qvy8Qw9DZ
Monday 25 th January	https://forms.gle/HNLSaUWhzrGwFukr9
Monday 1 st February	https://forms.gle/yU5HzVqgpiuZ5obQA
Monday 8 th February	https://forms.gle/u2jvBueY2bPvHfua9

COVID-19 Update:



1) School Meals – All children, attending school during lockdown are able to order a school meal, but as before, please note these are a choice of baguette and not hot cooked meals. For children who are eligible for free school meals (FSM), they can either:

- Order a packed lunch each day if they are in school
- Have a '10 day hamper' to cover the meals at home. We are planning to arrange for food vouchers instead as we know you prefer the choice and can check on the quality of what you provide your child! These are not available to order until early next week, so we will keep you updated

on when these will start. **Note, if your child is eligible for FSM, and is attending school part-time, you will receive a hamper or voucher so will need to provide your child with lunch on the days they are in school** – you won't be able to have both! If your circumstances change, please let us know as soon as possible, as these arrangements can take several days to take effect.

2) **Remote Learning** – We have 39% of children in school, and the remainder are 'home learning'. As such, we have some new and slightly different challenges to provide remote learning – not least the majority of teachers doing two jobs (ie teaching children in class and at home) at once! So here are just a few reminders about expectations now we have settled into a week of learning from home, and to help both teachers and children manage without getting too overwhelmed!



- **Daily Check-ins** – we are expecting all children to have '**checked-in**' to their class google classroom page between 9.00-9.30am each day. Sometimes this will be by a simple question posed by the class teacher for the child to respond to, sometimes a 'google meet' video call to give children an opportunity to 'say hello' to peers and their class teacher. We are using these sessions to monitor attendance and following-up any inactivity if we haven't heard from children for more than two days.

- **Learning resources** – Hopefully you will have received your child's school books (and a chrome book if requested) for children to complete their work in. All teaching resources are posted daily onto your child's google classroom page. We have been trying to include some pre-recorded video lessons and will continue to do this for at least one lesson a day.

- **Feedback** - We are trying to strike a balance of giving children regular and useful feedback on their work against the practicalities of doing this with remote learning. We want to avoid having to mark and give feedback to 6 weeks' worth of remote learning over half-term because this simply isn't sustainable! To achieve this, we aim to do the following:

- Ask children to submit key pieces of work each week. Teachers will give instructions for this, but will typically be by email or posting onto google classroom (or Tapestry!). This will be 1-2 pieces for Reception and Year 1, and 3 pieces a week for Year 2 up to Year 6. Please avoid submitting pieces on multiple platforms – it simply isn't practical for the teachers to monitor all areas.
- Teachers may ask children to bring a piece of work to 'show & tell' at a morning 'check-in' to give an opportunity to provide some general feedback on any issues experienced.
- Use 'quizzes' or independent tasks for children to submit on google classroom that the teacher can mark and give feedback to.
- Please be aware that if your child submits a question on google classroom, the teachers may not be able to give an immediate response because as I mentioned earlier they are teaching during the day with the children in the classroom. They will respond at their earliest, and most practical opportunity.



- To be able to give your feedback and evaluation of how remote learning is going for you, I will send out a survey soon. We have appreciated the positive feedback we have had so far, but want to work even more with you ensure what we are doing is right for all concerned.
- Thank you for all the help you too are doing to support the children in continuing with their learning – we fully appreciate this is challenging for you as well.

Sex & Relationships Education: Thank you to those parents who joined the parent webinar. We to discussed the reviewed policy and outline of the units of work we intend to cover based on the new guidance from the DFE. If you would still like to contribute to this discussion, please email Mrs Hall (rhall@holytrinity.gloucs.sch.uk).

Other News:

- **Financial Help** - If you or your family are experiencing financial difficulties during the pandemic, Gloucestershire Credit Union is here to help you get through to better times. We can provide short term loans at affordable rates so that you will have no need to go to expensive payday lenders. Check out our website at www.gloucestershirecreditunion.org.uk and apply online for a loan.



- **Big Garden Birdwatch** – as many of you are at home, and may need an excuse to get outside and engage with nature, why not consider getting involved in the RSPB's 'Big Garden Birdwatch'. This is an annual event that helps the RSPB monitor trends in bird populations in the UK, and this year is taking place between 29-31st January. Go to <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/> for more details.



- **Cheltenham walking and cycling work** – Work to develop walking and cycling routes in Cheltenham is starting earlier than planned! In case you are affected by road closures/diversions for work related to this development, check out this [link](#) for more local details.

- **New Year challenges** – don't forget to follow, or better still join in, Alex Pardoe's running challenge – 100km in the month of January. Any funds raised he is generously donating to PTFA to support work in school. This weekend he's planning Cleeve Common to Hailes Abbey and back (21km/13miles) <https://www.plotaroute.com/route/1358370?units=km>. If you have a challenge you want to share, or get others involved in, let us know and we can share it here!



Forthcoming Dates

Remember – all these dates are on our School Website and are updated regularly!

- Thursday 28th January Reception Height, Weight & Vision Screening
- Thursday 28th January Y6 Height & Weight Checks **CANCELLED!**
- Friday 12th February End of Spring Term 1

Yours sincerely

Duncan de Gruchy – Headteacher