



Newsletter 11
25th February 2021
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"A Church School Community aspiring for all to live life to the full"

Dear Parents,

Value of the Term: Welcome back from what I hope has been a restful half term. Our value in focus this half term is courage! "Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed because the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). Over the next few weeks we will be looking at different aspects of courage from; doing the right thing, standing up for yourself and others, and giving things a go (that you may be fearful of or think you're no good at). Please use the Home School Values sheets to work through with your children helping them to understand more about this key value.



School Re-Opening: Hoorah! We are very excited to learn that the national covid pandemic is easing enough for schools to be re-opening fully. **From Monday 8th March, we will welcome back all pupils.** I will send a separate letter with more details about arrangements. Essentially, there won't be too many changes, so most of this will be reminders. However, we have already started to plan for the children's return, and particularly focussing on supporting their mental well-being and anxieties around returning to school and re-familiarising themselves with routines and expectations.

World Book Day: We have made the decision to postpone World Book Day for a week, so instead will mark this on **Friday 12th March.** This is so we can include all the children in the activities we are planning and give an opportunity to reconnect as a whole school community once again. To minimise any pressure and cost associated with 'dressing up', this year we have chosen the theme of 'dressing up as a word'. So, for example, your child could choose the word 'red' and simply wear all things red! Similarly, other words that should be easy to dress as include: footballer, school child, pattern, stripes, onesie ... you get the idea! We look forward to seeing some creative interpretations.



SENCO update: Mrs Belcher, our school SENCO (Special Needs Co-Ordinator) is currently on long term sick leave. Please see separate letter for an update on temporary arrangements to cover absence. We wish her well and a full and speedy recovery. In the meantime, if you have any concerns about additional needs for your child, you can use our new email – senco@holytrinity.gloucs.sch.uk

Before and After School Club – A reminder that our Before and After school club is open as usual. Please use the links to booking forms below (also on the school website). 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

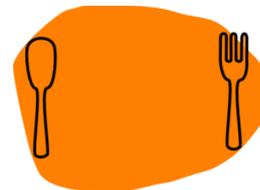
| Week beginning | Link to booking form |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Monday 1 st March | https://forms.gle/GBhK5bRXziYdWrQf8 |
| Monday 8 th March | https://forms.gle/3U5CDaBFWYPqYRux5 |
| Monday 15 th March | https://forms.gle/e17YdNsth5LoXXjP9 |
| Monday 22 nd March | https://forms.gle/ddZZdbnvFHVMvU2PA |
| Monday 29 th March | https://forms.gle/w45qzQ7JnJfUvom6 |

Parents Evening Appointments (Online): Save the dates! Our Spring Term Parents Evenings will take place on Monday 22nd and Thursday 25th March, and a potential additional date the following week. These will take the same format as the 'virtual' meetings we held in the Autumn term. Details about how to book and access the meetings will be sent to you next week.

Free School Meals: Just in case it is useful, I have left this item in from the last newsletter – especially as for some of you, your circumstances may have changed (see checklist on poster) and your child may now be eligible for free school meals (FSM). Another bonus is that for every child that is entitled to FSM, the school receives extra funding to enhance provision and improve progress and outcomes for children. So please apply even if you do not wish to take up your free school meal on a day-to-day basis.

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)



You can apply to see if your child is eligible for free school meals, by using the confidential online portal available on the Gloucestershire County Council Website, www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals. You are able to access this portal from a Smartphone or tablet. If you have any problems applying online, please speak to the School Office who will be able to help you.

Infant free school meals can confuse this issue because Your child will be able to get free school meals if they're in Reception class, Year 1 or Year 2. However, we still ask that you apply for this via the normal free school meals applications so as to prevent our school missing out on additional funding. See posters sent with the newsletter for more details and how to apply.

Other News:

- **Parent wellbeing** – See attached flyers with this newsletter with details for free courses provided by Adult Education in Gloucestershire:
 - **Happier and Calmer: Wellbeing at Home** is starting next Wednesday morning (3/3/21). The tutors work with parents to help them build a happier and calmer home, looking at the latest science and supporting parents to develop their own wellbeing plan.
 - **Calming the Mind** is an online mindfulness course which helps parents find new ways to relax. It is running on Wednesday evenings from 17/3/21.
- **St Edward's Senior and Sixth Form are holding a Virtual Open Evening. If you are interested, on Thursday 4th March at 7pm** they are holding a Virtual Open Evening to find out more about day-to-day life at St Edward's. As well as hearing from a range of staff and students, there will also be the opportunity to participate in a live Q&A session to enable you to ask any specific questions you have about our School. **Book your place online at <http://stedwards.uk/visit>**

- **Big Pedal** – Registration for the Big Pedal 2021 is now open! You are invited to take part in the **Big Pedal 2021**- the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting competition. As well as active journeys to school, 30 minutes of physical activity at home and exercise taken from home with a family member will count as one journey in the challenge this year. The event will run from **19 to 30 April 2021** with a programme of **free daily lesson plans and physical activities which are suitable for remote learning**. With almost a third of children in England engaging in less than 30 minutes of daily physical activity in the 2019 – 2020 academic year, Sustrans Big Pedal challenge is an easy way for families and teaching staff to stay active whether schools are open or not. **Find out more and register www.bigpedal.org.uk**



Forthcoming Dates

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

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| • Thursday 11 th March | World Book Day | All day (dress as a word!) |
| • Monday 22 nd March | Parents Evening | 3.45pm onwards |
| • Thursday 25 th March | Parents Evening | 4.30pm onwards |
| • Thursday 1st April | End of Spring Term 2 | |
| • Monday 19th April | Start of Summer Term 1 | |
| • Monday 3 rd May | Bank Holiday | No School today! |
| • Thursday 6th May | Police and Crime Elections | School used as polling station – details to follow) |
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Yours sincerely

Duncan de Gruchy – Headteacher