

Hillesley

PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Newsletter 7

Dear Parents,

Updating our records – With this newsletter you will be sent a separate letter regarding key worker status. We are sending this out just in case we are subject to any local or national lockdown. We are updating our records and appreciate that many of you filled in similar forms back in March but we are trying to make sure that we have all relevant information in case of any full or partial closure. I am hoping it will not happen of course and thank you for your patience and cooperation. Please can you complete the reply slip on the keyworker letter and return to the school office email admin@hillesley.gloucs.sch.uk

Data Collection – your child will bring home an envelope containing a Data Collection Sheet – this is an annual requirement to ensure we have the correct information on your child's record. Due to GDPR regulations, we cannot send this by email as it contains confidential data so please check the sheet carefully, write on any necessary amendments and return the sheet to school by 23rd October.

Other communications' reminders – the Christmas cards information was sent out recently so if you wish to purchase any of these please make sure you have referred to the instructions and place your orders online then return the artworks to school by 23rd October.

Could I also thank parents who regularly order their child's school dinners online via Parent Pay and politely remind those who forget, to please do so by the cut off time for ordering, 8.30am? When parents forget to do this it causes extra administration work for the school so your help with this is much appreciated.

If your child is in Reception, or has started in KS1 this year they will need to be registered with Gloucestershire County Council for Universal Infant Free School Meals – all children in Years R – 2 are entitled to this and lunches are ordered at zero cost to parents, but you do need to register your child. Thank you to the majority of new parents who have done this, but if you have not yet done so, please go to the GCC website and go through the process on the Free School Meals portal <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

Parents' evening consultations – you will have received an email with a suggested appointment time when the teacher will call you for a 10 to 15 minute conversation about your child / children's progress. If the allotted appointment time is not suitable we will re-arrange another time. As we only have one phone line, these appointments are spread over a number of days/evenings. Again I thank you in advance for your patience as we try this completely new way of running parent/teacher consultations.

The long assessment period is coming to an end and the teachers have a very good idea of every child's needs in relation to catch-up and learning objectives for next steps progress. They will talk to you about this during your telephone call but I would like to reassure you that we have devised comprehensive catch-up and support, both for individuals who need extra input and for whole groups to revise important

phonics, reading and maths work. The teachers and classroom staff are doing a great job within the restrictions of, and overcoming issues with, time and finance and I cannot commend their efforts enough. We are in the process of having our Google remote learning platform – G-Suite (which includes Google Classroom and Meet) set up by a DfE designated IT company. This is almost ready; staff training will take place in the first week after half term and we hope to have it up and running early in Term 2.

Admissions – For those children in Year 6, the deadline for secondary school admission applications is 31st October 2020. Please make sure you have applied for secondary places before this date, using the county council online portal for the council in which you reside.

The application process for admission to Reception in September 2021 opens on 4th November and letters explaining how to apply on the council website portals will be sent out by councils in November. If you have a child born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017 they can start school in September 2021. As we cannot hold Open Days this year, it would be useful if this information could be passed on in the local community. If you go to a toddler group or know someone with a child due to start school next September, please let them know about us.

Safety – It has come to my attention that some children are climbing or walking along the wall at the front of the school. This wall is high and if a child falls into the road and hard surface below, they could injure themselves and others. It is always a temptation for the children as the wall appears to start off low near the school steps, but the drop to the road quickly becomes much higher and more dangerous. Please make sure you are preventing your child climbing and walking along this wall.

Due to the ongoing Covid 19 restrictions we are unable to run lots of the usual extra events but we are continuing with PE and Forest Schools and hoping to hold the Knex Challenge for KS2 in Term 3 or 4. We have already put together some plans for Christmas for the children and we will send more information soon.

This is the last newsletter for this term and I would like to say how successful it has been for us all so far. Thank you all very much for supporting our Covid safety measures and for your positive attitudes to the changes. The children are coping well and have adapted quickly and easily to a different type of school day. The staff have worked hard with all the assessments and extra support and will continue to do so into Term 2, beginning Monday 2nd November.

In these troublesome times it is heartening to know that we can adapt and carry on in a positive atmosphere of co-operation and mutual support for the benefit of us all but in particular for the children. In other parts of the country and indeed the county, it has been a much more problematic time and I sincerely hope that we can continue to operate in an infection-free and safe environment here in our small corner of the world!

We break up next Friday October 23rd and I wish you all a happy and restful break.

Best wishes,

J. Pedley