

Dear Parents and Carers,
Thank you so much for the positive response we have had from parents and carers about keeping their children at home where they can, to help with limiting numbers in school. If you have offered up days for others to have a space, then this will start from Monday 8th February (unless you wish to start earlier which is also fine).



Covid-19 Reporting

If you suspect someone in your household has Covid-19 please inform the school either by phone or email

office@holymeadprimary.co.uk. Please tell us your child's name, class, date of onset of symptoms and any test results and when you expect your child to return to school.

Please do not send children to school if they or anyone in the household has Covid-19 symptoms.

Please note the last day of term is 12th February. School will re-open for Key worker/vulnerable children on 22nd February.



A Message from The University of Bristol Research, CoMMInS project ie. Y2, Y5 and now Y6 children in school.

I wanted to update you on the status of

the CoMMInS study now that the vaccination programme is being rolled out in Bristol, as there may be some questions about how relevant the testing still is.

In short, it's still very much so.

While vaccination protects the majority of people from serious illness, it is not known to what degree it will influence transmission of Covid-19. This is a very important question that the CoMMInS study can help to answer if we keep collecting samples from vaccinated individuals. So we are continuing to run the saliva testing programme and encouraging staff and students to participate whether they have had a vaccination or not.

The team's first visit was on 3rd February. We are still looking for more volunteers to join the study in March so if your child is in Y2, Y5 or Y6 and they are in key worker/vulnerable pupil school please ask the office for the online consent details for the CoMMInS study.

It involves spitting into a tube once a month!



Governors' Corner:

Following meetings with governors and parents Councillors Tim Rippington and Jos Clark have met with the council to discuss possible solutions to the dangerous roads around the school sites. I am expecting to hear from the council shortly about possible solutions and will keep you informed.

Remember, anybody can report anti-social and illegal parking to the police at the link below, should you wish to do so;

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/>



In the Finance and Staffing Committee Meeting, Governors monitored the budget and agreed the current Outturn which shows how the school is managing its finances. Like all schools, we have had to manage extra spending on PPE and other Covid-19 related matters. You may hear in the news that the government is funding this extra spending. So far we have been able to claim £10,000 out of the £60,000 extra we've spent on Covid-19 in the first 6 months. The remainder of the funds has had to come out of the school budget. Currently, we are still able to make ends meet. We are grateful for donations towards PPE and laptops that parents have generously made.



Laptops and i-pads

We have been fortunate to benefit from the government's

laptop scheme and having loaned out many devices following our priority list, we still have a few remaining so if you are in a household that is sharing a laptop and you'd like one from school please email the office.



Reminders!

Reminder. Please note the school does not accept any liability for items brought in from home including mobile phones. All items brought into school are brought in at the owner's risk. Parents and carers must sign the mobile phone agreement before letting their child bring a phone to school.

Please remind your child they are not allowed to bring any toys or games including swapping cards and clip on toys on bags.



Term Dates 2020- 2021

Term 1

Wed 2nd Sept- school year starts for KS1 and KS2 (new Y1 to Y6)

Thurs 3rd Sept- New in-take Reception start.

(NEW INSET Fri 23rd Oct. School CLOSED)

Term 2

Mon 2nd Nov- Thurs 17th Dec 2020 (INSET 18th Dec)

Term 3

Tues 5th Jan 2021 – Friday 12th Feb 2021 (INSET 4th Jan)

Term 4

Mon 22nd Feb- Wed 31st Mar 2021 (INSET 1.4.21)

Term 5

Mon 19th April- Fri 28th May 2021

Term 6

Tues 8th June- Wed 21st July 2021 (INSET Mon 7.6.20)

New Term Dates 2021-2022

Term 1

Thurs 2nd Sept 2021 school closed for INSET

Fri 3rd Sept 2021 KS1 and KS2 start (all current pupils)

Mon 6th Sept 2021 New Reception start part time.

Other dates are on the Bristol website but DO NOT include our INSET dates.



E-Safety Day 9th Feb: Keeping up to date with your children's use of technology can be a challenge, especially if you feel that your children may have better technical skills than you do. However, children still need support and guidance when it comes to managing their lives online and using the internet positively and safely. A simple and effective way to get involved with your children and their lives online is through discussion.

Conversation starter ideas:

Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?

- Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and [how to report](#) or block on the services they use.
- Encourage them to help. Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.
- Think about how you use the internet as a family. What could you do to get more out of the internet together and further enjoy your lives online?

Further information about these issues is available from ChildNet or Thinkuknow.co.uk and on the school website.



Social distancing

Our school community has shown great consideration of others in wearing masks around school. Thankyou. Please can we extend that same consideration to others and maintain social distancing wherever possible around the surrounding area such as by the gates and on the pavements around school. We have a lot of people trying to get to and from both school sites and if parents congregate in groups near the school it can cause difficulty for others trying to get by. Thank you for your consideration.



Reminder to Parents: please can we remind parents to ensure that all dinner money accounts (via Parentmail) and breakfast club and afterschool club accounts are either kept in credit or at zero. Dinners and services must be paid for in advance rather than in arrears.



Following a government announcement, we are still unsure whether our camps will go ahead. The government plan to make an announcement on this in February 2021.

The Red Ridge camp for Y6 has guaranteed all money back if we have to cancel the booking so we are taking bookings in the hope we will be able to go at some point. Miss O'Toole has made a power point presentation as parents are not able to come into school. Please follow the link to find out more:

http://www.holymeadp.bristol.sch.uk/web/year_6_7/467196

We are hopeful Y5 camp will go ahead as explained previously.

When we have any further information we will let you know.



Cakes, Sweets and Biscuit treats

With Covid infection rates rising, we politely remind parents not to bring cakes, sweets or biscuits to celebrate birthdays or special occasions in school. As many children have special diets for varying reasons, we would rather parents didn't send any treats for consumption in school. We have in the past allowed biscuits but with the increased risk of contamination from the virus, we feel the best solution is not to send any treats into school at all at present. Thank you.



Adverse Weather and possible School Closure.

In exceptional circumstances e.g. heavy snow or failure of heating systems we may need to close the school.

However, this is always the last resort so parent/ carers should

always assume we will be OPEN unless we tell you otherwise.

Ways we may be able to inform you of closure are through Parentmail, local radio, Bristol City Council website listing school closures, the school's own website (see address below). Any systems can be clogged up by a large amount of usage so please bear with us and remember we are trying to do our best. You can also try phoning the school if you are uncertain or coming from a long way away. In the event of partial closure, we allow 30 children to attend for every teacher present. Thank you.



COULD YOU HELP US UNDERSTAND CHILDREN'S IMMUNE RESPONSE TO COVID-19?



You are invited to take part in a study looking at how children's immune systems respond to COVID-19, and to vaccines for other infectious diseases.

The study is being run by Bristol Children's Vaccine Centre, and the Oxford Vaccine Group which is part of the University of Oxford.



If you/your child are/is aged 0-19 you may be able to volunteer.

The main study is just one visit, a blood sample, approximately 45 mins of your time.

whatsthestory.web.ox.ac.uk/bristol

story-study@bristol.ac.uk | 01173420160

What's the STORY?: OVG 2019/01: REC Ref 19/LD/1040: IRAS 263097; Poster 1: Version 1.0 Dated 02 SEP 2020



ONLINE SAFETY

The NSPCC have issued 8 simple tips on how to keep children safe online during lockdown. It provides advice on the best way to help keep your children safe online during lockdown, how to continue having conversations around online safety, regularly check phones and app settings together, and manage time spent online.

Please follow the link below for further information.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/8-tips-for-keeping-your-kids-safe-online-during-lockdown/>



The government requires schools to outline their remote learning offer to parents. Staff have been working very hard to provide remote learning to enable your child to continue to learn when they are out of school. Mr Jones and Mrs Head are in charge of Remote Learning and they have put together a Remote Learning offer which is on the school website under Key Information/policies. Please follow the link below to read it.
<http://www.holymeadp.bristol.sch.uk/web/policies/187999>

We realise that learning at home is different from learning in school and we have tried to provide materials and resources that enable parents to be able to juggle their work, home life and caring commitments. It is impossible to come up with a one size fits all solution. We understand that different families will need to approach learning in different ways and at different times. The times on our timetables are there as a guide and to help you see when teachers will be around to mark and give feedback or further instructions to aid understanding. This is part of their live interaction with pupils.

A few parents have asked why we are not streaming live lessons like some secondary schools. There are several reasons for this. One is that not all children and parents can be sat down at the same time due to work commitments and therefore having work which can be done at a time to suit them is better. Also, according to research by OFSTED, live streaming of lessons has not been found to be the most effective way to teach young children as children are not actively engaged for more than a few minutes at a time. They need a variety of activities and children actually need to DO things rather than just sit and listen to their teachers. Even in school we do not have teachers standing at the board for an hour during a lesson. Instead staff are making short video clips followed by time to do a task. This is working for most of our children and means you can access it when it suits you eg around working, going out to the supermarket, or for a daily walk.

If you need support with remote learning, please ask during phone calls and Zoom meetings or email the office and ask for it to be forwarded to the class teacher.

Please don't worry if your child doesn't have time to complete everything, prioritise the English and Maths and do some fun activities for balance.



Virtual School Library Please find attached a link to the Virtual School Library, brought you by Oak National Academy in partnership with the National Literacy Trust. This link will provide you with free reading and writing activities from your favourite children's authors. Every week a popular children's author or illustrator will provide you with free books, exclusive videos and their top three recommended reads. Enjoy.

<https://library.thenational.academy/>

Quiz for Year 6 children.

Some of the Year 6 parents have arranged a quiz for the Year 6 children with 'Letsgetquizzical' (Mr Munnings) on Friday 12th February at 3.00pm.

If you are interested in your child participating in this event, send your £4.00 via PayPal (<https://www.paypal.me/letsgetquizzical>). Please include child's name, team name and email address for the Zoom link in the PayPal comments.

Many thanks.



Please note the school tries to pass on information it considers may be helpful or of interest to parents in this newsletter. We do not necessarily endorse or check the security and safety of the services on offer. Parents need to satisfy themselves that they are happy to leave their children at any of the clubs and services advertised which are not based on the Holymead School sites. Holymead School carries out DBS checks on clubs who have hire agreements to run children's clubs with this school.



Mast application outside Wick Rd library

Parents wish to make other parents aware that there is a planning application for a mast outside Wick Road library. If you wish to make comment on this application, you can do so online by Feb 10th. You can visit the website www.stop5G.co.uk/bristol and if you scroll down to near the bottom you can access the bit.ly link for Allison Rd.

Yours sincerely
Ms Kate Slatcher



Rights Respecting Schools Article 13: Children have the right to get and to share information

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