

Dear Parents and Carers,



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.

Where you are having difficulty accessing digital learning please ring or email the office as we may be able to support with Wi-Fi or providing laptops/i-pads. Alternatively, we may be able to provide photocopies of work.

Teachers are also calling home to speak with individuals.

Group Zoom meetings will be happening from this week.

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.



**Outcomes of the Parent/Carer Consultation on the proposed temporary changes to the school day to close at 1pm on Friday afternoons from 22<sup>nd</sup> January.**

The parent/carers voting was 100 for and 23 against.

Governors discussed the outcomes of the consultation and agreed to temporarily close the school at 1pm from this Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January during Covid-19 partial school closure. This is to reduce the number of staff crossing bubbles.

There were 23 responses from parents needing child care on a Friday afternoon to be able to work. In response to those parents/carers that need the After School Club facility, we have decided that, so long as numbers reflect the numbers in the consultation (approx 23), that the school will be able to offer the ASC facility free until 3.10pm (infant) and 3.20pm (junior) when the normal (Covid) charges will be made for anyone collecting after this time.

As the consultation is anonymous, please can anyone who needs childcare on Fri at 1pm in order to be able to go out to work, please write to the office indicating how many spaces you require and on which site. Please include your child's name and year group. We respectfully ask that all other children are collected promptly at 1pm from normal collection points, after they've eaten lunch and had a bit of time to play.

Thank you for taking part in this survey. It was lovely to receive so many messages of support. Thank you.



### Governors' Corner:

Last week Governors wrote to Bristol Local Authority, education department to see if there was any chance of Holymead joining a Safer

Schools project in Bristol. We will let you know if this happens.

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/>



### Term Dates 2020- 2021

#### Term 1

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

Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept- New in-take Reception start.

(NEW INSET Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. School CLOSED)

#### Term 2

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov- Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020 (INSET 18<sup>th</sup> Dec)

#### Term 3

Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 (INSET 4<sup>th</sup> Jan)

#### Term 4

Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb- Wed 31<sup>st</sup> Mar 2021 (INSET 1.4.21)

#### Term 5

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> April- Fri 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

#### Term 6

Tues 8<sup>th</sup> June- Wed 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 (INSET Mon 7.6.20)

### New Term Dates 2021-2022

#### Term 1

Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2021 school closed for INSET

Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2021 KS1 and KS2 start (all current pupils)

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021 New Reception start part time.

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



**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.

**Changes to The University of Bristol Research, CoMMInS project have been sent by parentmail to those year groups affected ie. Y2, Y5 and now Y6 children in school.**



### Covid-19 Reporting

If you suspect someone in your household has Covid- 19 please inform the school either by phone or email the [office@holymeadprimary.co.uk](mailto: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. Thank you.

**The Equality policy and the School Improvement Plan (SIP) are on the school website.** Please follow the link below, in order to view them.



<http://www.holymeadp.bristol.sch.uk/web/policies/187999>



### 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/>



### 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.



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](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](http://whatsthestory.web.ox.ac.uk/bristol)

[story-study@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:story-study@bristol.ac.uk) | 01173420160



**Holidays in term time.** It is very unlikely holidays will be authorised as circumstances have to be really exceptional. However, it is still important that applications are made

so there is a record in school. AS A GUIDELINE PARENTS SHOULD ASSUME APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR A HOLIDAY WILL NOT BE AUTHORISED AND YOU ARE LIKELY TO BE FINED FOR ANY UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE OVER 4 DAYS (8 SESSIONS).

Fines start at £60 per child, per responsible adult. For example, if you have 2 children in school and there are mum and dad sharing responsibility for the children then you will be fined £240. Fines rise if they are not paid on time. Please fill in a leave of absence form in advance of taking your children out. Note, you can still be fined if you take an unauthorised holiday but don't fill out a form.



## Some interesting information which may be helpful.



Please note the school tries to pass on information it considers may be helpful or of interest to parents. We do not necessarily endorse or check the security and safety of the services on offer. **Library information**

**@BristolLibraries** Face Book hosts a regular live baby bounce on a Tuesday and Thursday at 11.00am. A Lego challenge on a Monday at 11.00am and a children's quiz on a Friday at 10.00am. Not a library member? No problem - you can sign up online here for a temporary card with free access to Cloudlibrary for eBooks, RB Digital for eMagazines and Borrowbox for eAudio Books <https://bit.ly/joinbristollibraries> Online Free Christmas children's Events x 2 1. Join interactive storyteller John Kirk for a special Christmas Story Hunt. This session will incorporate a popular to pantomime story and is suitable for families with children age 3+.

### Children Centres

Please note South Bristol Children's centres hold a variety of parent groups and activities for children and useful information from mental health and wellbeing to how to access food. Please check out their website for further information. <https://www.southbristolcc.org.uk/>

### Walk with Me UK – Support Group for Parents and Carers

Experience to equip Parents, Carers, Foster Carers and Guardians with strategies and tools to practically manage challenges such as violent, aggressive, controlling, destructive, self-harm behaviours from their children and young people that are often linked to e.g. school exclusions, special educational needs, grooming and child exploitation; to strengthen and rebuild relationships within families and communities using the Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) approach to create an enriched and harmonious lifestyle.

Walk with Me UK – Support Group for Parents and Carers

Phone: 07883654495 Email: [walkwithme.co.uk](mailto:walkwithme.co.uk)

**Welfare Rights and Money Advice Service.** They help to make sure that the people in Bristol know what welfare benefits they are entitled to and how to claim them. If you need help and advice, please call 0117 3521888 or email [walfarerights@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:walfarerights@bristol.gov.uk)



**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.

Yours sincerely  
Ms Kate Slatcher



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

Holymead Primary (Infant Site)  
Hollywood Road, Brislington, Bristol BS4 4LE.  
T: 0117 3772381 – F: 0117 3772382  
E: [office@holymeadprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@holymeadprimary.co.uk)  
[www.holymeadp.bristol.sch.uk](http://www.holymeadp.bristol.sch.uk)

Holymead Primary (Junior Site)  
Wick Road, Brislington, Bristol, BS4 4HB  
T: 0117 9030377 – F: 0117 9030378  
E: [office@holymeadprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@holymeadprimary.co.uk)  
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