**FEBRUARY 2020 – END OF TERM NEWSLETTER**

We find ourselves at the end of yet another term! This term has been jam packed with exciting events and learning experiences; and there’s more to come! Can I please urge you to regularly check the calendar on the school website as this will keep you firmly up to date with what is happening and when. I would like to thank all the families that also now use ParentPay to order lunches - it has been a huge success!

Have a lovely relaxing half term and we look forward to seeing children return to school on Tuesday 24 February 2020 at 8.55am.

**Cauliflower Cards**

We would like to thank you for purchasing your child’s Christmas cards, tags, mugs and wrapping online at Cauliflower Cards. This initiative has raised £297 for Tutshill School funds. Thank you!

**Gymnastics Competition**

On Wednesday 29 January 2020, a group of Year Three and Year Four children went to St John’s on the Hill School to participate in a gymnastics competition. They all tried extremely hard and represented our school brilliantly. The children took part in different activities, these included a floor routine and using the vault. Well done to all of the children who were involved. We are really proud of you all.

*Miss Lane, Miss Lane*

*Walked us there,*

*To show us that she really cares.*

*She wanted a bacon sandwich and cup of tea*

*But instead she got to walk with me!*

*Forward roll, forward roll*

*Curled up like a little mole*

*Jump jump onto the vault*

*Perfect landing not a fault!*

*Three big steps little toes pointing,*

*Beautiful and never disappointing.*

*Worked hard we tried our best*

*Even with the arabesque!*

*We got fifth place which wasn’t so bad*

*We all thought that we were ace.*

*We went back to school with our heads held high*

*Because we gave it our very best try.*

 Mya – Year Three

**Netball Event**

On Thursday 13 February 2020, two teams from Year Five and Year Six took part in the Bee Netball tournament at the Dean Academy. Both teams worked really well together and tried their best. Team A won all of their matches and got into the final. They won this match and are now due to play the winners of the North Area of the Forest of Dean in March. Team B also won their tournament but lost out on a place in the final due to goal difference. Well done to all of the children who took part. We are really proud of you all and good luck to the A Team in their next match. Many thanks to those parents/carers who helped to transport the children, we really appreciate your support.

**Link with School in France**

Children in Year Four have been writing French with a purpose this term after receiving letters from their new French pen pals.  Tutshill School has been partnered with Ecole Sainte Marie in Normandy and the children in Year Four have really enjoyed reading letters from their pen pals and writing back to them.  We would like to thank Mrs Hart and the Chepstow-Cormeilles Twinning Association for helping to establish the link.

**Fairtrade Forum**

In December, children across KS1 and KS2 entered a poster competition organised by Chepstow Fairtrade Forum. Chepstow Town Council and Tidenham Parish Council both supported this competition and have helped with funding.

We are delighted to announce that two of the children from Tutshill School have been selected from entries across Chepstow to receive awards.

Well done to Ella in Year 3 for her highly commended certificate. Well done to Shanta in Year 4 who won a football as an overall winning design! The winning posters will be displayed in and around Chepstow during Fairtrade Fortnight; Monday 24 February – Sunday 8 March 2020.  We were also gifted with a copy of these winning posters which you can see displayed in the school entrance.

Thank you to all of the children who took part and thank you to the Chepstow Fairtrade Forum, Chepstow Town Council and Tidenham Parish for delivering the awards to the children.

Please find attached a link for more information on the Fairtrade Forum in Chepstow <http://monmouthshirefairtrade.org.uk/chepstow/>

**Spiritual Moments Competition**

This term we will be entering children’s artwork to the ‘Spiritual Moments’ competition. It is a great opportunity for the children to work with the Gloucester Diocese. The competition will help children explore the meaning of spirituality for themselves and other people.

The Diocese of Gloucester would like to exhibit all entries but this will be dependent of numbers. The art will be exhibited at Discover DeCrypt in Gloucester.

For more information use this link: <https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/FINAL-Details-for-Spiritual-Moments-RE-Art-Competition.pdf>

**PTA Update**

Many thanks to all of you who have so far voted with the blue tokens for Tutshill PTA at Tesco. Voting remains in place until Tuesday 31st March 2020 at Chepstow's main Tesco store, as well as at the Tesco Express in Bulwark. If we receive the most votes we will win £2000, if placed second; £1000 or £500 for coming third. All funds gained will be used to purchase equipment for your children to use in outdoor learning across the school.

Thank you all for your ongoing support.

**Attendance – Spring Term 1**

Congratulations to the **BLUE** Team who had the highest attendance percentage this term with 96.18% and are able to wear their team colours on the first day back to school on **Tuesday 25 February** **2020** (please remember this does not include fancy dress or football colours). Our whole school attendance was 95.74% and well done also to Year 1 who had the highest class attendance at 98.11%.

**Message regarding Church Cottage, Tutshill**

We have received notification from Davlan Construction Ltd who will be commencing works to the above property on **Monday 17 February 2020** to refurbish the property back to its original condition. The works are quite extensive and will take approximately 36 weeks to complete. They have requested that we make parents aware that works are commencing and that this area will be busy with site traffic. They are aware that the layby and surrounding area are used for parking by parents

dropping children at school and will do everything they can to minimise any disruption.

Riverside Nursery would also like to remind parents that their car park is for use by staff and parents of the nursery only.

**Church Dates**

Parents are invited to attend our church assemblies on the dates shown below. Please attend the Church on the date relevant to your child’s class.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Friday 28 February | Year 4 |
| Friday 6 March | Year 5 |
| Friday 13 March | Year 6 |
| Friday 20 March | Reception |
| Friday 27 March | Class assembly – TBC |

**Parental Consultations**

Parental Consultations will be held during the week commencing **Monday 23 March 2020**. Parents will be able to book appointments using our online booking system from **Wednesday 26 February 2020 at 6.30pm**.

**World Book Day**

We are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day this year. On **Wednesday 4 March 2020**, to launch our celebrations, children are invited to return to classrooms after school between 3.20pm and 3.40pm.  Teaching staff will be based in classrooms ready to read stories to pupils.  Adults are welcome to accompany their children to classrooms for this special story time.  On **Thursday 5 March 2020**, the day itself, children are invited to come to school dressed as a character from a book and to bring a favourite book to school with them to read during the day.  A huge thank you in advance of your support with this.  A fun packed timetable of events is planned to spread the love of books and promote reading for pleasure.  We will be using our Share-o-meter to record our progress towards collectively sharing a million stories between February and March.  More information can be found by visiting: <https://www.worldbookday.com/SHARE-A-MILLION-STORIES/>

**Sport Relief 2020**

As part of Sport Relief Week, Caterlink are offering a themed menu on **Tuesday 10 March 2020**. The meal choices on that day will be:

* Meatballs in tomato sauce with rice
* Vegan meatballs in tomato sauce with rice
* Jacket potato with beans

Please book your child’s meal in the normal way through ParentPay.

On **Friday 13 March 2020**, we will be asking children to ‘Get Your Kit On’ by wearing sports kit for the day in return for a £1 donation to Sport Relief. This is payable via ParentPay. We will also be joining thousands of schools across the UK by taking part in Sport Relief mile. This will involve a variety of movements including walking, running, hopping and skipping!

**Rags to Riches Reusable Clothes Collection**

We will be having a reusable clothes collection at school on **Thursday 12 March 2020**.  These collections help us to raise funds for the school.

'Rags to Riches' will be collecting reusable clothes that people will want to buy and wear as affordable clothing around the world.  All clothes need to be something you would wear out yourself or pass on to friends and family.  Please remember all clothing should be clean, dry and reusable.  The school receives a payment per kilo of clothes collected.

Your child will be bringing home a flyer and a bag with more information on the types of items that can go in the bags after half term.

Please bring your bag of clothes to the school on **Thursday 12 March at 9am**. Please do not bring your bag to the office before this date as we do not have any storage facilities. Thank you for your support with this initiative.

**Year 5 Trip to SkillZONE**

We would like to remind parents to log into your ParentPay account and give consent for your child to participate in the trip to SkillZONE on **Tuesday 17 March 2020**.

**Year Six Residential Trip Payments**

We would like to remind Year Six parents that the full balance for the residential trip in July needs to be made by **Friday 22 May 2020**.

**ParentPay Meal Booking Service** ([www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)).

Don’t forget to book your child’s school meal via ParentPay. We would highly recommend that you book and pay (if applicable) for a week’s meals at a time. You can book as many meals as your child requires for the week. You can, of course, book as many weeks in advance as you wish. **Please note that this will be the only facility for booking school meals**.

If you think you may qualify for free school meals, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> for more information and to find out how to apply on your local authority’s website.

**Contact Information**

Please ensure you advise the School Office of any changes to your contact details. It is vital that we have your up to date information for all correspondence purposes.

**School Emergency Closure**

As we approach the colder months, should severe weather conditions require us to close the school; we will notify parents and carers by means of an alert via the eSchools app. May we please urge any families who have not already installed the app to do so as soon as possible to ensure that they receive any such closure alerts. Please also ensure you add Tutshill School email addresses to your safe senders to help stop any emails going into your Spam/Junk folder. We will also notify any closures on the home page of our school website and to Gloucestershire County Council for inclusion in their Emergency School Closure List. At very busy times - e.g. during bad weather - the GCC closed school website can be overwhelmed by the number of visitors. To cope with this exceptional demand they have set up two other links. Please check the following links:

* [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closedschools](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closedschools)
* [www.glosclosedschools.co.uk](http://www.glosclosedschools.co.uk)
* [www.glosclosedschools.com](http://www.glosclosedschools.com)

Parents can follow GCC on Twitter where they will put messages when there are mass closures. Follow the link and search for GlosCC: [Twitter](https://twitter.com/GlosCC)

**School Contact Details**

Telephone: 01291 622593

General email: office@tutshillcofe.gloucs.sch.uk

Attendance email: attendance@tutshillcofe.gloucs.sch.uk

PTA email: ptatutshill@gmail.com

**Diary Dates – At a Glance**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **MONTH** | **DATE** | **EVENT** |
| **February 2020** | 14 | Term 3 ends |
|  | 17 – 21 | Holiday Club |
|  | 24 | INSET DAY |
|  | 25 | Term 4 begins – **BLUE** Team Colours |
| **March 2020** | 5 | World Book Day |
|  | 12 | Rags to Riches Reusable Clothes Collection |
|  | 13 | ‘Get Your Kit On’ for Sport Relief (wear sports kit for £1 donation) |
|  | 17 | Year 5 Trip to SkillZone |
|  | 20, 23 & 24 | Book Fair |
|  | 23 – 25 | Parental Consultations |
| **April 2020** | 3 | Term 4 ends |
|  | 6 - 9 | Holiday Club |
|  | 20 | Term 5 begins |
|  | 20 - 24 | Year 5 Bikeability Cycle Training |
|  | 23 | Year 5 Swimming Lessons commence |
|  | 27 | Year 2 Swimming Lessons commence |
| **May 2020** | 5 | Year 3 and Year 4 trip to We The Curious  |
|  | 8 | Bank Holiday |
|  | 11 - 15 | KS2 SATs |
|  | 22 | Deadline for full payment for Year 6 Residential Trip |
|  | 22 | Term 5 ends |
| **June 2020** | 1 | INSET DAY |
|  | 2 | Term 6 begins |
|  | 2 – 5 | Year 5 Trip to Cheltenham Science Festival (dates to be confirmed) |
|  | 17 | Year 6 Leavers’ Service at Gloucester Cathedral |
|  | 29 | Year 6 Induction Evening at Wyedean School |
|  | 30 | Year 6 Induction Day at Wyedean School |
| **July 2020** | 1 | Year 6 Induction Day at Wyedean School |
| 6 - 8 | Year 6 Residential Trip |
| 17 | Term 6 ends |
| 20 – 24 | Holiday Club |
| 27 - 31 | Holiday Club |