**SEPTEMBER 2019 – WELCOME BACK NEWSLETTER**

Welcome to another exciting academic year! It has been a joy to walk around the school this week and see the children settled into their classes. The children are settled and ready to learn. The Reception children have been attending this week and it’s been a test learning new names and faces!

Next week we have invited parents in to their children’s classrooms to see the classroom and more importantly get to know the teacher. If you have any questions for the teacher or you feel you may benefit from having a separate meeting, please make an appointment at the school office.

**Year Six Secondary School Transfer Letters**

Children in Year Six who live in Gloucestershire will have brought a letter home this week from Gloucestershire County Council regarding the secondary school transfer process. GCC have asked us to ensure that all parents are aware that their application, whether made electronically or on paper, must be made no later than the closing date of **Thursday 31 October 2019**. This is extremely important as any applications received after this date may **not** be considered until after 2 March 2020.

**Year Six Unaccompanied Walking**

If you are allowing your child to walk to and from school unaccompanied, please could we request that you provide the school with written permission (either by letter or email) confirming this.

**Meet your teacher**

Over the next two weeks, you are being invited to meet your child’s teacher and come in to the classroom. You will be able to see where your child’s learning takes places, meet the adults teaching your child and be informed about what you children will be taught across the year. You will be told about homework days and PE day etc. There will only be one session per class but the information will be available on the class pages on eSchools. The times for these sessions are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Date** | **Time** |
| Year 1 | Monday 9 September | 9.00 - 9.30am |
| Year 2 | Wednesday 11 September | 9.00 - 9.30am |
| Year 3 | Tuesday 10 September | 9.00 - 9.30am |
| Year 4 | Thursday 12 September | 9.00 - 9.30am |
| Year 5 | Monday 16 September | 9.00 - 9.30am |
| Year 6 | Tuesday 17 September | 9.00 - 9.30am |
| Busy Bee Hive | Monday 9 September | 2.45 - 3.15pm |

**After School Clubs**

We are currently finalising our after school clubs for children in Years One through to Six and will inform parents next week of the clubs we are running and the booking procedure. All clubs will commence the week beginning **Monday 16 September 2019**.

**School Photographs**

The photographer will be in school on **Thursday 26 September** for individual portrait photographs and family groups; the proofs will come home soon after with the payment procedure clearly indicated. The photographer will arrive at 8.30am to take family group photos in the school hall – please go straight to the hall, if you wish to have a family photograph taken. This is for siblings NOT in school – if you have more than one child here at Tutshill School, they will automatically be photographed as a group and it is not necessary for parents to wait for these photographs to be taken. These sessions take place throughout the day.

**European Day of Languages**

Towards the end of September (date to be confirmed next week), we will be focusing on the country of Wales and, throughout the day, the children will take part in a variety of activities based on the Welsh language and culture.

Children are invited to come to school dressed in the colours of the Welsh flag or in a costume that they feel represents Wales (as a famous person, in a themed costume, etc).

If any parents or carers are Welsh speaking and would like to lead a short language session on the day with a year group(s) of their choice, please let Mrs Hart know via the school office.

**Life Education Van**

The school will receive a visit from the Life Education Centre’s mobile classroom at the end of September (date to be confirmed). The Life Education Centre’s aim is to help children develop the confidence and thinking skills needed to make informed health choices on topics such as healthy eating, hygiene, managing emotions and keeping safe. The classroom is equipped with a variety of exhibits including a full size model of the human body, a fibre-optic star ceiling, an interactive talking brain and other audio-visual material. There will also be an opportunity for parents to visit the van which will be communicated closer to the time.

**Rags to Riches Reusable Clothes Collection**

We will be having a reusable clothes collection at school on **Tuesday 15 October 2019**.  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’d 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 in the next few weeks with more information on the types of items that can go in the bags.

Please bring your bag of clothes to the school on **Tuesday 15 October 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.

**ParentPay School Meal Accounts**

If your child is in Key Stage 2, please could we request that your child’s school meal account be kept topped up at all times. In line with our School Meals Policy we have adopted a no debt policy relating to the school meal service provided by Caterlink. 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

**Snacks**

Please can we remind parents that we are a healthy eating school and as such encourage children in KS2 to bring a healthy snack at break time. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be provided with a fruit snack. Children in KS2 will be asked to only eat a healthy snack at break time. Children eating chocolate bars and/or crisps will be asked to return this to their lunch box, to be eaten at lunchtime, and swap with a healthy snack i.e. fruit, vegetable or dried fruit. All children have been informed of our focus on healthy snacks at break time.

**Nut allergy**

We request your co-operation in keeping our school a nut-free environment in the interests of the safety of our pupils, some of whom suffer from a severe nut allergy. Please avoid giving your child/ren snacks or packed-lunches containing nuts (in any form) or foods with any nut content.

**Caterlink and food allergies**

We have been informed by Caterlink (our catering company) who have updated their policies that it is now essential for all children requiring a special dietary meal, to provide a doctors letter to confirm this. Unfortunately, until full confirmation is received, Caterlink will only be able to provide a reduced meal provision for each child with a special dietary requirement. This will consist of a plain jacket potato with vegetables. Alternatively, you can provide your child with a packed lunch whilst you obtain the relevant documentation.

**School and PE Uniform**

At the end of last year, school uniform wasn’t always in line with what is expected. Can I please remind parents that the school uniform list is included below and on the school website. Children will be asked to removed bracelets and other fashion jewellery.

There is an increasing number of children wearing watches to school, which is wonderful! It is requested that children wear a small, plain wrist watch that is not linked to any games or online applications.

The PE uniform is below also. We will be monitoring standards of PE kit this term as frequently last year we were seeing a range of alternatives. We will have a set of spare kit in a range of sizes for children who accidently forget theirs. Additionally, if your child is unable to take part in PE, please notify the teacher in writing.

Our school uniform remains unchanged for the coming year, consisting of:

* A light blue polo shirt\*, shirt, or blouse
* School sweatshirt\* or navy jumper or cardigan
* Smart grey or navy trousers or grey or navy skirt/pinafore (skirts should be of an appropriate length and style
* Grey socks/tights, white socks for girls in summer
* Dark coloured appropriate sensible shoes.
* In summer, children may wear grey or navy shorts
* In summer, girls may wear a blue checked or striped dress and white socks.

PE Kit (to be kept in a named drawstring bag and kept in school):

* Navy T-shirt\* and navy shorts
* Navy jogging trousers and jumper/sweatshirt
* KS1 (Reception, Y1 and Y2) daps/black or white trainers; and
* KS2 (Y3, 4, 5 and 6) black or white trainers (no colour/logos/names).

Our uniform supplier, Sheila’s of Beachley Road in Sedbury, has sent details of her current prices for Tutshill School uniform as follows:

Sweatshirts £10.00 all sizes

Sweat cardigans £12.00 all sizes

Polo shirts £ 8.50 all sizes

PE t-shirts £ 8.00 all sizes

\*However, whilst preferred by the school, the wearing of uniform bearing the logo is optional and uniform can be purchased from other suppliers providing it is the correct colour (i.e. plain light blue polo shirts and plain navy sweatshirts may be worn for lessons and a plain navy t-shirt may be worn for PE).

Children should wear school uniform at all times.

Please note the following:

* Children with long hair should have it tied back using a plain, navy or blue “Alice”-style hair band, plain navy bobble/pony-tail band and simple “Kirby”-style hair-grips. Decorative or embellished hairbands, bobbles/elastics/scrunchies and hair-grips must not be worn.
* No jewellery should be worn in school. Children with pierced ears may wear plain studs. These must be removed for all PE activities and the child must be able to put them back in themselves.
* No nail varnish.
* During the Summer term all children should have a hat and a water bottle as part of their PE kit. It is advisable to have a pair of plain navy blue jog bottoms in school.
* During the Autumn, Winter and Spring terms, all children should bring a coat to school. This ensures they are able to participate in outdoor activities and playtimes. During the Summer term it is advisable to have a light waterproof coat.

**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 Contact Details**

Telephone: 01291 622593

General email: [office@tutshillcofe.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:office@tutshillcofe.gloucs.sch.uk)

Attendance email: [attendance@tutshillcofe.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@tutshillcofe.gloucs.sch.uk)

PTA email: [ptatutshill@gmail.com](mailto:ptatutshill@gmail.com)

**Cool Club Contact Details**

If you need to contact Cool Club regarding the breakfast or the after school club, parents can do so by email at [coolclub15@outlook.co.uk](mailto:coolclub15@outlook.co.uk) or by their contact phone number on 07763 479119.

**School Calendar**

Please be sure to regularly check the school calendar for events. This can be looked at on the school website or the eSchools app.

**Diary Dates – At a Glance**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **MONTH** | **DATE** | **EVENT** |
| **Sept 2019** | 2 | INSET DAY |
|  | 3 | Term 1 begins |
|  | 9 | Year 1 Meet the Teacher |
|  | 9 | Busy Bee Hive Meet the Teacher |
|  | 10 | Year 3 Meet the Teacher |
|  | 11 | Year 2 Meet the Teacher |
|  | 12 | Year 4 Meet the Teacher |
|  | 16 | Year 5 Meet the Teacher |
|  | 17 | Year 6 Meet the Teacher |
|  | 26 | School Photographs |
|  | 30 | European Day of Languages |
| **Oct 2019** | 9 | Flu Vaccinations (further details to follow) |
|  | 15 | Rags to Riches Reusable Clothes Collection |
|  | 25 | Term 1 ends |
| **Nov 2019** | 4 | INSET DAY |
|  | 5 | Term 2 begins |
| **Dec 2019** | 20 | Term 2 ends |

**Term and Holiday Dates 2019/2020**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Term 1 2019**  Term begins  Term ends | 2 September 2019 (Inset Day)  3 September 2019  25 October 2019 – 3.15pm finish |
| **Term 2 2019**  Term begins  Term ends | 4 November 2019 (Inset Day)  5 November 2019  20 December 2019 – 3.15pm finish |
| **Term 3 2020**  Term begins  Term ends | 6 January 2020  14 February 2020 – 3.15pm finish |
| **Term 4 2020**  Term begins  Term ends  Good Friday  Easter Monday | 24 February 2020 (Inset Day)  25 February 2020  3 April 2020 – 3.15pm finish  10 April 2020  13 April 2020 |
| **Term 5 2020**  Term begins  May Day Bank Holiday  Term ends | 20 April 2020  8 May 2020  22 May 2020 – 3.15pm finish |
| **Term 6 2020**  Term begins  Term ends | 1 June 2020 (Inset Day)  2 June 2020  17 July 2020 – 1pm finish  20 July 2020 (Inset Day) |

School will be closed for in-service training on the following dates:

2 September 2019

4 November 2019

24 February 2020

1 June 2020

20 July 2020

These dates are in line with Gloucestershire County Council term dates.

Created: June 2018

**Term and Holiday Dates 2020/2021**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Term 1 2020**  Term begins  Term ends | 1 September 2020 (Inset Day)  2 September 2020  22 October 2020 – 3.15pm finish  23 October 2020 (Inset Day) |
| **Term 2 2020**  Term begins  Term ends | 2 November 2020  18 December 2020 – 3.15pm finish |
| **Term 3 2021**  Term begins  Term ends | 4 January 2021 (Inset Day)  5 January 2021  12 February 2021 – 3.15pm finish |
| **Term 4 2021**  Term begins  Term ends  Good Friday  Easter Monday | 22 February 2021  15 March 2021 (Inset Day)  1 April 2021 – 3.15pm finish  2 April 2021  5 April 2021 |
| **Term 5 2021**  Term begins  May Day Bank Holiday  Term ends | 19 April 2021  3 May 2021  28 May 2021 – 3.15pm finish |
| **Term 6 2021**  Term begins  Term ends | 7 June 2021 (Inset Day)  8 June 2021  21 July 2021 – 1pm finish |

School will be closed for in-service training on the following dates:

1 September 2020

23 October 2020

4 January 2021

15 March 2021

7 June 2021

Created: March 2019