**JANUARY 2020 - START OF TERM NEWSLETTER**

**Happy New Year!**

It has been a very busy week back at school; the excitement of the festivities seems a long time ago! We have returned to school and children may have already experienced a Polar Day, more sporting activities- curling and agility tests; all in the first week back! The Spring Term has many exciting events planned, please ensure you continually look at the school website calendar and

eSchools to ensure you don’t miss anything!

Last term we offered an evening whereby children were to present to parents different aspects of school life and some of the strategies we use at school. Unfortunately, the meeting was cancelled due to poor attendance. However, the children and staff are very keen for parents and carers to know what we do at school therefore on your child’s eSchools page you will find a short presentation from our children. Please take a look!

**Attendance Policy**

We are constantly reviewing our practice and the way we work with parents and communicate. An area that we have wanted to refine and improve is the monitoring of attendance. Attached with this newsletter is the revised Attendance Policy. We have listened to stakeholders regarding the frequency of letters you may receive and the reasons behind the child’s absence can sometimes be unavoidable. With this in mind, letters will only be sent home at three points in the year, autumn, spring and summer. The school will monitor attendance termly and will look at each case individually; the letter sent home and its content will reflect this.

We are aware that there may be the rare occurrence that absence from school is requested to be authorised. For any absence to be authorised there is the requirement that evidence is presented. This is for **all** applications of authorised absence. Should hard evidence/documentation not be available or suitable, you are encouraged to speak directly to Mrs Cross, Attendance Officer, or Miss Lane, Headteacher to make us aware of situations in order that the Headteacher may authorise the absence.

**Holiday Clubs**

Unfortunately, this week we encountered a functionality glitch in our booking and payment system meaning that we are unable to open the booking system outside of school hours to allow parents to immediately reserve and pay for holiday clubs. As a result, we closed the system, refunded the bookings made and will reopen the system at **12.30pm on Wednesday 15th January 2020.**

Whilst there has been frustration over this, I must make it clear how and why we offer the clubs and that as they are funding dependant, there is a very real chance they may not always be available.

The holiday clubs are heavily subsidised by the School Sports Funding Grant. The purpose of the grant is that it must be used to fund additional and sustainable improvements to the provision of PE and sport, for the benefit of primary-aged pupils, to encourage the development of healthy, active lifestyles. The school has arranged that we enhance the activity levels of our pupils and we offer them the chance to develop their skills in these areas.

The sports club was never intended to be a childcare solution but to allow children to develop their sporting ability and support an active lifestyle. At present the funding is secured for 2019-2020 but we are unaware for how long the funding is available. We will continue to offer this provision whilst funding is available but there may come a time when we raise the costs as it is not subsidised or may not even be able to offer the provision.

We are in talks with the booking system provider to address the issues that have come to light. We will be in contact if we are able to make any further changes.

It is important to note- the only clubs and bookings that are affected are the holiday clubs as they are payable. This has **no** impact on after-school clubs, parents’ evenings, production bookings.

**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 17 January | Reception |
| Friday 24 January | Year 1 |
| Friday 31 January | Year 2 |
| Friday 7 February | Year 3 |
| Friday 14 February | Year 4 class assembly in school hall |

**After School Running Club**

We would like to ask if there are any parents who are able to make a regular commitment to be a volunteer at the after school running club. The club is held on a Friday afternoon from 3.15 – 4pm. If you are interested and able to make a regular commitment, please contact the school office.

**After School Sports Club**

New clubs for the Spring term and details of how to book a place for your child will be sent next week.

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

We would like to thank parents for their co-operation with our new meal booking service. The system is working very well and has enabled us to streamline the process, therefore saving time and resources. We would highly recommend that you book and pay 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.

**Bags of Help**

The focus of outdoor learning at Tutshill is available for you to support at Tesco as one of their three projects to compete for a ‘bags of help’ grant. Please encourage your friends and relatives to use their Tesco blue tokens to vote for Tutshill C of E PTA. You are able to do so until March 2020.

**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)

**Pupil Premium Funding**

Could there be £1320 of Government funding with your child’s name on it? We can’t access these funds for your child without your help!

Through our school and vision, the school provides education within the context of Christian faith and practice in accordance with its Trust Deed and our Christian values help us to respect each other and to always do our best, making our school a safe and caring environment. We understand that all children have different skills, abilities and experiences. Our main aim at Tutshill C of E Primary School is to educate our pupils to the highest standards and to support them in becoming confident individuals and successful learners.

Pupil Premium funding is there to provide this in the area that is best suited to the individual pupil’s needs – be that academic, physical, welfare, emotional, extra-curricular support or enrichment opportunities. Pupil Premium funding is available for children from low-income families who apply to receive Free School Meals with extra enhanced Pupil Premium Plus funding for children in the circumstances outlined below.

**How we support our children at Tutshill C of E Primary School**

Schools can choose how to spend their Pupil Premium funding as they are best-placed to identify what would be of most benefit to the children who are eligible. Common ways in which schools spend their Pupil Premium fund include:

* one-to-one or small group support for children within the classroom;
* one-to-one coaching;
* extra tuition for able children who receive the funding;
* music lessons for children whose families would be unable to pay for them;
* funding educational trips and visits;
* paying for additional help such as speech and language therapy or family therapy; and
* investing in resources that boost children’s learning.
* uniform grant;

**How to claim your child’s pupil premium**

Your child may be eligible for Free School Meals – and accordingly Pupil Premium – if you receive any of the following benefits:

* Income Support;
* Income-Based Job Seeker’s Allowance;
* Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance;
* Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
* Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit;
* Child Tax Credit, (provided that you’re not eligible for Working Tax Credit); or
* Universal Credit.

**Pupil Premium Plus funding qualifying circumstances**

As an enhancement to the basic Pupil Premium funding, we can access Pupil Premium Plus funding worth £2,300 for children who:

* have left Local Authority care as a result of :
* Adoption;
* A Special Guardianship Order; or
* A Child Arrangements Order;
* have been in Local Authority care for 1 day or more;
* are recorded as being both eligible for free school meals in the last 6 years and as being/have been looked after by Local Authority.

**What to do now**

If you feel you could be eligible for free school meals, or if you would like any more information, please talk (in complete confidence) to our Headteacher, Miss Lane, or our School Business Manager, Mrs Williamson, in the school office. Our contact details are provided at the foot of this page

If you prefer, you can find further information in the ‘Education and Learning’ section of the Gloucestershire County Council website at:

[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/)

**How to apply**

Apply via the online Free School Meal Portal at:

<https://emsonline.gloucestershire.gov.uk/CitizenPortal/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCitizenPortal>

**Parent View**

Please can we remind parents that they are able to and are encouraged to make parental contributions on the parent view page of the Ofsted website. For more information, please follow this link. <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

**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)

**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** |
| **January 2020** | 6 | Term 3 begins |
|  | 28 | Young Voices Concert |
| **February 2020** | 14 | Term 3 ends |
|  | 17 – 21 | Holiday Club |
|  | 24 | INSET DAY |
|  | 25 | Term 4 begins |
| **March 2020** | 5 | World Book Day |
|  | 17 | Year 5 Trip to SkillZone |
|  | 20, 23 & 24 | Book Fair |
| **April 2020** | 3 | Term 4 ends |
|  | 6 - 9 | Holiday Club |
|  | 20 | Term 5 begins |
| **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 |
|  | 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 |

**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