**SEPTEMBER 2018**

**Welcome**

Welcome back to all our friends at Tutshill C of E School and a special welcome to our friends who are starting school for the very first time! It is always a pleasure to see such happy and excited children coming to school with great enthusiasm for the year ahead.

We are already one week in to the Autumn Term and the children are settled into their new classes. Walking around the school, I am seeing children reading, writing, laughing and learning! There is much planned for the children this term, keep a look out for European Day of Languages, Author Visits and also a special sports activity for the whole school.

**Governors**

I would like to say a huge thank you to Ms Marilyn Henderson that has been on the Governing Body for the last 18 years. Ms Henderson has worked closely with the school and has helped the school maintain its good and effective provision. Thank you for all your time and the love and care you have given the children of Tutshill.

**Meet the teacher!**

You have been invited to come and meet your teacher and see the children’s class. You will be able to see where learning takes places, meet the adults teaching your child and be informed about what your children will be taught across the year. You will be told about homework days and PE day etc. You will be shown what is on the class pages and you are reminded to access this through the eSchools app. There will only be one session per class but the information will be available on the class pages on eSchools.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Date** | **Time** |
| Year 1 | Monday 10th September | 9.00-9.30am |
| Year 2 | Wednesday 12th September | 9.00-9.30am |
| Year 3 | Tuesday 11th September | 9.00-9.30am |
| Year 4 | Thursday 13th September | 9.00-9.30am |
| Year 5 | Monday 17th September | 9.00-9.30am |
| Year 6 | Tuesday 18th September | 9.00-9.30am |

Reception parents have met with class teachers throughout the summer term and there are teacher parent sessions during the first weeks back. Please refer to the Induction for Reception Children Handbook you received.

**European Day of Languages**

On Thursday 27th September, we will be holding a European Day of Languages. This year, we will be focusing on the country of Spain and, throughout the day, the children will take part in a variety of activities based on the Spanish language and culture.

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

**Life Space Inflatable Visit**

The school will receive a visit from the Life Education Centre’s mobile classroom on 25 and 26 September 2018. 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.

Any parents who wish to call in to the van are welcome on 25 September 2018 at 2.50pm. Please note that access will be limited to 20 visitors at a time.

**School Photographs**

The photographer will be in school on Tuesday 18 September 2018 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, 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.

Please note Reception children in Group A, please arrive at the earlier time of 11.45am on this day only to allow your child’s photograph to be taken.

**Please ensure that you have returned your child’s photographic consent form to the school office if you have not already done so. Unfortunately, if we have not received this then your child will not be able to have their photo taken.**

**Reception Intake 2019 and Open Day for Prospective Families**

This year we are holding three open days for prospective families on the following dates and times:

Wednesday, 3 October 10.30am – 11.30am

Tuesday, 16 October 2pm – 3pm

Monday, 5 November 10.30am – 11.30am

Please share this information with any families seeking a place in Reception in 12 months’ time. Anyone who would like to attend is asked to contact the school office to book a place.

**Author Visit**

Following our previous events which have gone down so well, we are again teaming up with Chepstow Books and invite the author Sibeal Pounder to Tutshill School on Tuesday 9th October.  She writes the “Witch Wars” series which are very funny and creative and the books are hugely popular.  She is also a former journalist for The Financial Times.  Years 3 to 6 are invited to attend and further information will be sent out closer to the time.

**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 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.

**Contact Information**

Please ensure you advise the School Office of any changes to your contact details.

**Year 6 Residential Trip 2019**

If you have not yet paid the deposit to secure your child’s place on the Residential Trip, please could we request that you do this at your earliest convenience. We would also like to remind parents to continue making their regular payments towards the outstanding balance for the trip.

**PE Kits**

Please make sure all PE Kits are in school every day and that all items are clearly named.

It is advisable to include a pair of tracksuit bottoms for outdoor PE activities.

**School Uniform**

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;
* Grey socks / tights, white socks for girls in summer;
* Dark coloured 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):

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

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

**School logo**

The school logo is embroidered on several items of uniform, all marked with an asterix on the above list. The full range of school uniform (including items with the school logo) is available for purchase from ‘Sheila’s’ in Sedbury.

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).

Nearly new uniform is available from the school office.

* Children should wear school uniform at all times.
* Skirts should be of an appropriate length and style.
* Children with long hair should have it tied back using a plain, navy or blue and white check, “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.
* Children should wear appropriate school shoes and not trainers.
* During the Summer term all children should have a cap 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.
* No toys or games should be brought into school unless given special permission by a member of teaching staff.

**ALL SCHOOL UNIFORM AND OTHER ITEMS OF CLOTHING MUST BE NAMED**

**Online Portal for Free School Meals**

Check to see if you are eligible by applying online at [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) Save yourself up to £437 per year and Tutshill C of E School may be able to access extra funding.

Please don’t let your child miss out on the extra support and opportunity that we can provide for them through Pupil Premium funding.

Tutshill School is able to obtain school additional Pupil Premium funding for each of our pupils, in all of our classes from Reception to Year 6, who is registered to receive Free School Meals. The Pupil Premium funding is allocated to the registered, eligible† pupils and is used to enhance provision and improve progress and outcomes for those children. For example, at Tutshill School we spend the Pupil Premium funding on:

• 1:1 support teaching;

• Class supported teaching;

• Group work;

• Pastoral activities e.g. cooking and gardening;

• Purchased resources for mathematical development and emotional resilience; and

• Enrichment activities.

…in order to support the eligible children’s learning and personal development.

Additionally, registering for Free School Meals also entitles your child to:

• Free musical tuition;

• Free school trips; and

• A school uniform bursary.

But doesn’t my child in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 already receive their meal for free - what’s the point in applying for Free School Meals for child in Infant/Key Stage 1 classes?

Yes they do, thanks to the Universal Infant Free School Meals, but these meals are offered free of charge to all Infant (KS1) pupils regardless of circumstances and do not bring with them the added Pupil Premium funding and support.

If you meet the following criteria, and haven’t taken steps to register for Free School Meals, then the school cannot claim your child’s Pupil Premium funding and give them the extra support and enrichment opportunities to which they are entitled.

† In order to qualify for Free School Meals for your children you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

• Income Support;

• Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance;

• Income-related Employment and Support Allowance;

• Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;

• The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit;

• Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit, and have an annual gross income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) of no more than £16,190;

• Working Tax Credit 'run-on' – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit; or

• Universal Credit.

You can check eligibility and apply online through the Free School Meal Portal. Please note that your child can still bring a packed lunch if they prefer, but by applying through the Free School Meal Portal you ensure that we can secure the additional funding and support for your child.

So please do apply even if you do not wish to take up your Free School Meal.

What is the Free School Meal Portal?

As a parent/carer you can apply for Free School Meals online along with your Admissions and Transport applications. The Free School Meals Portal also includes an online eligibility checking service which provides instant feedback – so they can easily confirm if you are entitled.

Do you need to have a computer to do this?

No – applications can also be made using a Smartphone or tablet. It’s also possible to use computers at Gloucestershire libraries.

What do you need in order to apply?

You will need to have an email address and your National Insurance or National Asylum Support Service (NASS) number to hand.

Can I use my login and password which I had when I applied for a school place?

Yes, it will be the same login and password as when you applied through the portal for School Admissions or if you have recently made an application through the Year 2 Funding portal.

Is this the only method of applying?

No, the paper forms are still available but it will be far more efficient and quicker to apply using the portal. The portal will advise you of your entitlement shortly after you have fully submitted your application, unlike the current five day processing time with paper forms.

Do all parents need to apply?

If your child(ren) is currently receiving Free School Meals, it is not necessary to apply again. This new system for applying is for new claimants.

How will the school know my child does not have to pay for school meals?

The school will be notified directly by the Free School Meals Team that your child can have a school meal free of charge. You can use your letter of entitlement as confirmation.

What if my benefits cease?

You will need to contact the Free School Meals Team immediately. Do not continue to receive Free School Meals unless your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and therefore qualifies for Universal Infant Free School Meals. If your child is in Year 3 or above and they have Free School Meals after you no longer receive the qualifying benefits you will be asked to pay for the meals your child has received since the time you were no longer entitled to claim.

What if my circumstances change?

You must inform the Free School Meals Team if your circumstances change although your eligibility will be reviewed periodically. It is essential that you contact the Free School Meals Team with any changes of address or other circumstance. If your financial circumstances change you will be notified if your child is no longer entitled.

If I have a query, who can I contact?

General advice and support can be given by the Free School Meals Team by emailing edsupport@gloucestershire.gov.uk

**Cool Club Contact Details**

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

**Safeguarding**

Safeguarding children is a key priority at Tutshill School.

We:

* ensure adults who come into contact with children have enhanced cleared from the Disclosure & Barring Service (which has replaced Criminal Records Bureau);
* communicate child protection procedures to all staff, parents and visitors. We would ask that should you hear, see or read anything which troubles you about a child, do not ignore it, but report your concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs J Lane.

For further information on safeguarding, contact the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children’s Board: [www.gscb.org.uk](http://www.gscb.org.uk). Tel: 01452 583638.

**Parent View**

Ofsted are welcoming parents views throughout the year regarding your thoughts on school provision. The expectation is that parents will submit thoughts and opinions on their website. To date, there has been very little response from parents online so we would encourage you to post your comments; even positive comments are welcome!

Please find the link below and wording from the Ofsted site.

<http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

*Parent View gives you the chance to tell us what you think about your child’s school. Parent View asks for your opinion on 12 aspects of your child’s school, from the quality of teaching, to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour. We will use the information you provide when making decisions about which schools to inspect, and when. A screencast demonstrating how to register and complete a survey on Parent View is available on the* [*How to use Parent View*](http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/how-to-use) *page. By sharing your views, you’ll be helping your child’s school to improve. You will also be able to see what other parents have said about your child's school. Or, if you want to,* [*view the results*](http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/parent-view-results) *for any school in England.*

**Dates for your diary**

We have tried to give you as many dates as possible for the forthcoming school year

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sep 2018** | **3** | **INSET Day** |
|  | **4** | **Term starts** |
|  | 10-18 | Meet the teacher (see grid for specific dates) |
|  | 25-26 | Lifespace Inflatable Visit |
|  | 27 | European Day of Languages |
|  | 28 | Maths Meeting 1pm – Reception Parents |
| **Oct 2018** | 3 | Open Morning 10.30am – 11.30am |
|  | 5 | Reading & Writing Meeting 1pm – Reception Parents |
|  | 9 | Author Visit – Year 3-6 |
|  | 16 | Open Afternoon 2pm-3pm |
|  | **19** | **Term Ends – 3.15pm** |
|  | **29** | **INSET Day** |
|  | **30** | **Term Starts** |
| **Nov 2018** | 5 | Open Morning 10.30am – 11.30am |
|  | **19** | **INSET Day** |
|  | 20 | Flu Vaccinations Rec through to Year 5 |
|  | 21 | M&M Productions – Sleeping Beauty |
|  | 28 | Heights & Weights visit – Reception & Year 6 |
|  | 29 | Year 5 Class Brass Mini Concert |
| **Dec 2018** | **21** | **Term Ends – 3.15pm** |
| **Jan 2019** | **7** | **Term Starts** |
|  | 22 | Young Voices Choir Trip |
| **Feb 2019** | **15** | **Term Ends – 3.15pm** |
|  | **25** | **Term Starts** |
| **Mar 2019** | 15-20 | Book Fair |
| **Apr 2019** | **5** | **Term Ends – 3.15pm** |
|  | **19** | **Good Friday** |
|  | **22** | **Easter Monday** |
|  | **23** | **Term Starts** |
|  | 23-26 | Bikeability Cycle Training – Year 5 |
| **May 2019** | **3** | **INSET Day** |
|  | **6** | **May Day Bank Holiday** |
|  | **24** | **Term Ends – 3.15pm** |
| **June 2019** | **3** | **INSET Day** |
|  | **4** | **Term Starts** |
| **July 2019** | 10-12 | Year 6 Residential Trip |
|  | **23** | **Term Ends – 1pm** |

**Term and Holiday Dates 2018/2019**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Term 1 2018**  Term begins  Term ends | 3 September 2018 (Inset Day)  4 September 2018  19 October 2018 – 3.15pm finish |
| **Term 2 2018**  Term begins  Term ends | 29 October 2018 (Inset Day)  30 October 2018  19 November 2018 (Inset Day)  21 December 2018 – 3.15pm finish |
| **Term 3 2019**  Term begins  Term ends | 7 January 2019  15 February 2019 – 3.15pm finish |
| **Term 4 2019**  Term begins  Term ends  Good Friday  Easter Monday | 25 February 2019  5 April 2019 – 3.15pm finish  19 April 2019  22 April 2019 |
| **Term 5 2019**  Term begins  May Day Bank Holiday  Term ends | 23 April 2019  3 May 2019 (Inset Day)  6 May 2019  24 May 2019 – 3.15pm finish |
| **Term 6 2019**  Term begins  Term ends | 3 June 2019 (Inset Day)  4 June 2019  23 July 2019 – 1pm finish |

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

3 September 2018

29 October 2018

19 November 2018

3 May 2019

3 June 2019

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

Created: July 2017

**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  4 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