**January 2018 Newsletter**

**Welcome!**

Happy New Year to you all! I do hope you all managed to have a peaceful and restful break! It has been a pleasure greeting you all this week as we start the Spring Term of the academic year. It has been a short week, but already there is an awful lot happening! I have been in classes with children, I have been looking through books and I am impressed with the positive attitude children are showing.

In our welcome back assembly, children were informed of the value of the term; compassion. We spent time thinking about what that this means to us and where we may have seen, or indeed shown, compassion. Be sure to ask your child about the schools vision and values; you will be very impressed with the way in which they see the vision and live the values!

The Sports Club which was run by Prostars over the Christmas holidays proved hugely popular and successful and we will again be funding another club from our Sports Premium funding during the February half term. Keep a look out for the email with details on how to book a place for your child closer to the time.

**PC Nick**

This week, twelve children and I attended a farewell service at St Luke’s Church for PC Nick. The children shared memories of PC Nick and all he had taught us. It would seem many children were handcuffed during their time at Tutshill during his talks! PC Nick, I am sure, will be back to see the children in the near future. In the meantime, PC Henry will be continuing PC Nick’s great work.

**Communications**

A polite reminder for parents and carers to ensure that regular attention is paid to the school calendar and communications that are sent from school. Please make the school office aware immediately if there is a change in contact details. All information that is needed can be found on the school website and on your child’s class page on eSchools.

**School dinners**

We have started our new child ordering system this week! Children are able to choose their lunch on the day. This aims to reduce waste from the school kitchen, allows children to eat more lunch as they would have chosen what they like to eat, allow children to demonstrate the school value of responsibility and reduce the time parents and the school office spend ordering lunches! On the whole it has been a huge success. Thank you for your support whilst we introduce this scheme.

**School Clubs**

Clubs start week commencing Monday 8 January. All clubs are available to book online. If your child previously attended a club you will need to ensure you now use the online booking system to secure your child a place.

**Lunchtime supervisor**

We are looking for someone who would like to join our lunchtime team! We want someone that can play games with the children, provide a friendly ear, model how to be a good friend and generally enjoy lunchtimes with the children. If that is you or you know someone who fits the bill; please make contact with the school office! Hours are 12.00-1.00pm Monday to Friday, term time only.

**Class vacancies**

We currently have vacancies in Year 1, 2 and 4. Please contact the school office for more information.

**Music lessons**

Lessons start on Monday 8 January.

Mrs Crawley: Monday and Wednesday for woodwind and piano lessons

Mr Griffiths: Monday for guitar

Miss Griffiths: Tuesday for ukulele

Mrs Kay: Thursday for violin

Please can children have instruments in school.

**PTA Events - Save the Dates!**

The PTA have some exciting events coming up including the disco on Wednesday, 7th February 2018 and a Bingo evening on Wednesday, 21st March 2018. These events are always extremely popular so make a note in your diary’s now. Further information will be sent out closer to the dates.

**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.

**Year 3 and 4 Netball**

We have been asked to spread the word that Anne Winter will be running 8 training sessions for Years 3 and 4 starting on Monday, 15th January 2018 at Chepstow Leisure Centre from 5pm to 6pm and will be £15 per child. If you would like to reserve a place for your child, please contact Anne Winter at [anne\_winter\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:anne_winter_1@hotmail.com) Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

**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.
* Baseball caps with the school logo are available from the school office.

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**

Gloucestershire County Council is launching a new portal to enable parents to apply on-line for Free School Meals across the county. The launch will initially be for Reception pupils starting primary school in September in the Gloucester area only. This will enable Gloucestershire County Council to test the system before going live for everyone later in the term.

The portal will be a quick, easy and more efficient method for parents to apply as opposed to the current paper based system. Also, upon completion of the application, the process will indicate to the parent whether they will be eligible for Free School Meals, so there should no longer be a delay in hearing the outcome. If further information is required, in order to determine entitlement, parents will be notified about what is needed to be done to complete their claim.

Another advantage of this on-line service is that it will not be necessary for school staff to fax or scan applications to us as they have done in the past, especially at the beginning of the academic year. If you or the parents have any queries, regarding this or the process of applying, please contact the Free School Meals Team on 01452 425390 who will be happy to help. For more information and to make an application visit [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals%3chttp:/www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

**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 N Fryer.

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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Jan 2018** | 2 | INSET DAY |
|  | 3 | **Term begins** |
|  | 8 | Year 5 swimming lessons commence |
|  | 11 | Young Voices Choir Concert  Year 5 Brass Lessons commence |
|  | 16 | Year 6 Knex Challenge |
| **Feb 2018** | 7 | PTA Disco |
|  | 9 | **Term ends** |
|  | 19 | **Term begins** |
|  | 28 | Year 5 SkillZONE trip |
| **Mar 2018** | 1 | World Book Day |
|  | 7 | Bags2School textile collection |
|  | 21 | PTA Bingo night |
|  | 22 | Year 5 Brass Mini Concert |
|  | 28 | **Term ends – 3.15pm finish** |
|  | 29 | INSET DAY |
|  | 30 | **Good Friday** |
| **April 2018** | 2 | **Easter Monday** |
|  | 16 | **Term begins** |
|  | 16 - 20 | Year 5 Bikeability |
|  | 23 | Year 2 Swimming lessons commence |
| **May 2018** | 7 | **May Day Bank Holiday** |
|  | 14 | **Key Stage 2 SATs week** |
|  | 19 | PTA Summer Fayre |
|  | 24 | M&M Productions show to whole school – The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe |
|  | 25 | **Term ends** |
| **June 2018** | 4 | INSET DAY |
|  | 5 | **Term begins** |
|  | 14 | Country Dance Festival – Speech House |
|  | 18 | Year 6 Parents’ transition evening at Wyedean |
|  | 20 | Reserve Date Country Dance Festival – Speech House |
|  | 19-21 | Year 6 Wyedean transition days |
| **July 2018** | 4 | Music Evening |
|  | 11-13 | Year 6 Residential Trip |
|  | 25 | **Term ends – 1.00pm finish** |

**Term and Holiday Dates 2017/2018**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Term 1 2017**  Term begins  Term ends | 4 September 2017 (Inset Day)  5 September 2017  20 October 2017 |
| **Term 2 2017**  Term begins  Term ends | 30 October 2017 (Inset Day)  31 October 2017  15 December 2017 – 3.15pm finish |
| **Term 3 2018**  Term begins  Term ends | 2 January 2018 (Inset Day)  3 January 2018  9 February 2018 |
| **Term 4 2018**  Term begins  Term ends  Good Friday  Easter Monday | 19 February 2018  28 March 2018 – 3.15pm finish  29 March 2018 (Inset Day)  30 March 2018  2 April 2018 |
| **Term 5 2018**  Term begins  May Day Bank Holiday  Term ends | 16 April 2018  7 May 2018  25 May 2018 |
| **Term 6 2018**  Term begins  Term ends | 4 June 2018 (Inset Day)  5 June 2018  25 July 2018 – 1pm finish |

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

4 September 2017

30 October 2017

2 January 2018

29 March 2018

4 June 2018

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

Created: November 2016

**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