

CHRISTMAS CARDS

This is a reminder that if children would like to bring in Christmas cards for their friends, they should do so next week, any time between Monday and Friday. They should only bring card for their own year group. These will then be kept safely in school until the following week, when they will be sent home.



STAFF NEWS

We have been delighted to welcome back Mrs King to school in the last couple of weeks, and it will be great to have her back with us after Christmas. She will work on Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons with Heron Class.

It has been lovely to have Mrs Price teaching in Heron class with Mrs Conroy since September, and we thank her for all she has done and wish her well for the future.



PTFA 'Team Winter' have created a free booklet of 12 crafts for the children. We have tried and tested the crafts themselves for the children to help keep them feeling festive and entertained.

There's a variety of crafts from papercraft to baking and also a simple stitching project included. We've tried to provide something for everyone - easy crafts for the little ones and some more challenging for the older ones. The booklet is completely free and to get sent a copy, please email

winterfayre@watermoreptfa.co.uk

And we will email you back.

HOLD THE DATE! VIRTUAL QUIZ NIGHT

We are not able to hold our usual quiz nights in the school hall at the moment, but we are planning a virtual quiz night for Friday 5th February. We hope that you will be able to join in the fun.

HELP FOR FAMILIES IN FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

Don't forget that we have been given money to help out any families experiencing financial hardship at the moment. We have not had many requests from parents, so please don't be embarrassed - let us know if we can give you assistance with anything that you are struggling to provide for your family at the moment.

You might also like to suggest another family that would benefit from this help - you can do this anonymously if you prefer.



SCRAP PAPER

Our children love to draw and make things out of paper, but now we are going more paper-free we don't have as much scrap paper as we used to. If you have any you can send in (making sure there is nothing confidential on it) please drop it off to the entrance area, where we will leave it for a few days and then pass onto the classes.

INTERNET SAFETY

Children are accessing the internet and having their own phones at younger and younger ages. This can bring many benefits, but also dangers. This is a website containing advice guides to give you the need to know information about the most common activities, such as using apps, social media and gaming. There are separate sections about protecting children online for 0 to 5 year olds, 6 to 10 years olds and 11 to 13 year olds.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/>

LETTER FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Attached to this newsletter is another letter which the local authority have asked us to send to all parents. We must say, we are so grateful that Watermore parents have been so responsible in following all the guidance, so this is just a reminder and not because we are unhappy with how the vast majority are supporting us in the current times.

Date: 3 December 2020

Keeping our schools and early years settings safe: a message to all parents and carers

Ref: Wearing face coverings in school and nursery playgrounds

Thanks to the hard work, sacrifices and the care people have shown for the wider community, the number of new cases we are seeing in South Gloucestershire is slowly reducing. However, the numbers of new cases are still too high and the health system under too much pressure for us to relax and so we have been placed in Tier 3, which is the Very High Alert level.

Only by doing the right thing and by continuing to follow the new rules will we continue to make progress towards a safe future for everyone.

Schools and nurseries remain a safe place for our children and young people and we know that any transmission within them is low. This is because of the work that our headteachers, managers and their teams have taken to ensure really good risk measures are in place. We want to see our children and young people in education, as this is the best for their learning.

What we are advising you to do

To help keep reducing local cases and to keep staff and children in our schools and nurseries as safe as possible, **we are strongly advising all parents and carers to wear a face covering during drop off and pick up.**

Encouraging parents and carers to wear face coverings in the playground goes beyond the government guidelines for educational settings, which state that face coverings should be worn where social distancing is not possible inside. However, in areas of high community transmission of the virus, schools and nurseries have discretion to encourage adults to wear face coverings in the playground.

Exemptions for wearing face coverings apply including people with breathing difficulties or living with a disability. You can read the guidelines for face coverings in education here:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education

and the general guidelines for face coverings here: when to wear one, exemptions, and how to make your own here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own.

Why we are asking you to do this: the reason for using face coverings

Covid-19 usually spreads by droplets from coughs, sneezes and speaking. These droplets can also be picked up from surfaces, if you touch a surface and then your face without washing your hands first. This is why social distancing, regular hand hygiene, and covering coughs and sneezes is so important in controlling the spread of the virus.

The best available scientific evidence is that, when used correctly, wearing a face covering can reduce the spread of coronavirus droplets in certain circumstances, helping to protect others.

Department for Children, Adults and Health

Delivering for you

However, they are not a replacement for social distancing and regular hand washing. It is important to follow all the other government advice on Covid-19 at www.gov.uk/coronavirus



If you have **any** symptoms of Covid-19 you and your household must isolate at home - wearing a face covering does not change this. You should arrange to have a test to find out if you have Covid-19: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

If you are a contact of someone who has tested positive you must self-isolate - wearing a face covering does not change this.

You can read our guide on self-isolating www.southglos.gov.uk/testing

We need to take every precaution available to ensure that educational settings can continue to operate as fully as possible. The wearing of face coverings when people are gathering in large numbers in an open space will help with this.

What role will schools and nurseries take in this?

Your school/nursery will follow this request from the council and keep the school community informed with timely reminders about this request. School and nursery staff will also be strongly advised to wear a face covering when outside during the morning drop off and afternoon pick up.

We are confident this is something everyone will support, to help reduce the spread of Covid-19 and move us into a lower tier as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued efforts to keep South Gloucestershire safe.



Sara Blackmore,
Director of Public Health



Chris Sivers,
Director for Children, Adults and Health