



Dear Parents/Carers,

Once again, thank you for your continued support. Parents who are supporting their children at home are doing a fantastic job under difficult circumstances. If you are having problems completing all of the work on some days then please speak to your child's class teacher. They will be able to advise you of the most important work to complete. The important thing to remember is that you know your family circumstances and you know what is right for your family.

We had over 100 children in school every day last week. This represents approximately 42% of children. This is significantly higher than the national average. The guidance for critical and vulnerable child provision states that parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can. This is to reduce the amount of social contact within the community as much as possible. If you are currently accessing provision, and you can make alternative arrangements, I would ask that you do so, especially as we are now seeing cases within our school community.

### **CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK**

This week is children's mental health week. Teachers will be sending you a link to a virtual assembly that all children can take part in. On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> of February, we are inviting everyone, in school and those at home, to Dress to Express. Children, and parents, are encouraged to wear whatever they would like (not school uniform). We will be posting pictures on the school Facebook page so please feel free to upload your pictures. Further details of children's mental health week can be found by following the link below.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

### **FREE VODAPHONE DATA SIM CARDS**

We have a limited number of free Vodaphone sim cards available to families whose children are remote learning. The sim cards are pre-loaded with 30GB of free data. They last for 90 days from first activation. The sim cards can be used in any device that you can connect to the internet with a sim card. Please contact the school office for further details.

### **LITTLE FOXES NURSERY AND FOXMOOR OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB ALL WEATHER PLAY GARDEN**

We are delighted that we have been able to make a start on the construction of the 'Little Foxes Nursery and Foxmoor Out of School Club All Weather Play Garden'. We have now constructed the perimeter fence and the next phase of the garden will be to construct a disabled access ramp, a bike track and a section of artificial grass to create an all-weather surface.

We have now raised £655.00 through the Just Giving Page and with the help of Lyla in Year 6, who wrote a letter to apply for funding from the community; we have been awarded a grant of £500.00 from the Parish Council. We are currently in the process of applying for a Lottery Grant to help with the cost of the garden.

We are still trying to raise money for this worthwhile cause and we would be extremely grateful for any kind donations, even small amounts do add up. Here is the link to our Just Giving Page. If you are unable to contribute, please share the link on your social media.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/little-foxes-out-of-school-club>

Many thanks for your support.

Headteacher: Mr Richard Bridgewater

## **FEBRUARY HALF TERM**

The Department for Education has confirmed that schools will be closed to all children during February half term, as would normally be the case. There will be no remote learning set during that week and class email addresses will not be monitored. I'm sure you will agree that children, parents and staff all need a well deserved rest.

## **INCOME BASED FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS**

The government have made the decision to prevent schools issuing free school meal vouchers during the half term break. Gloucestershire County Council is providing an alternative. Information regarding this was emailed to parents last week. If you have not received this information then please contact the school office.

## **WIDER OPENING OF SCHOOLS**

No doubt you will have seen the Prime Minister's announcement that schools will not open more widely after half term. They have committed to make an assessment and an announcement on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. If the data allows, there will possibly be a wider reopening from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

## **LATERAL FLOW TESTING**

We started lateral flow testing of staff last week. Staff are self-testing on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. The guidance suggests that tests should be carried out in the morning before school but I feel that if a test comes back positive, and I have to close a bubble, it gives parents a little more notice of the bubble closure if the test is done in the evenings. I appreciate that it will still be short notice and I apologise in advance for the inconvenience this would cause. Please note that if a bubble closes, the guidance states that any siblings in other year groups will also have to isolate.

## **COVID-19 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND**

The COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund for food and essential supplies is there to support people in Gloucestershire during the challenging and unprecedented times of the coronavirus outbreak. Individuals can self-refer. Previous requests have been for financial help towards utilities, food and essential household items.

For an application form, please go to [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2097744/emergency-assistance-grant-form.pdf](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2097744/emergency-assistance-grant-form.pdf)

## **HEALTHY START VOUCHERS**

Anyone who is pregnant or has a child under 4 and is in receipt of benefits may be able to get free vitamins as part of the Healthy Start voucher scheme in Gloucestershire.

The Healthy Start vouchers scheme provides vouchers to help buy some basic foods:

Plain fresh, tinned or frozen fruit and vegetables

Fresh, dried, and tinned pulses

Milk

Infant formula milk

To claim Healthy Start vouchers, all you need to do is fill out an easy initial application form, then vouchers will be sent to eligible families. For more information and how to apply, click the link below.

### **WARM CLOTHES IN SCHOOL**

As part of the government guidelines, we have to keep windows and some external doors open to aid ventilation. As the weather becomes colder, it is important that all children have warm clothing in school. If you would like to send your child in with extra layers then please do so. This could include a fleece or gilet.

### **CORONAVIRUS REPORTING**

Details of the three main coronavirus symptoms and what to do if your child or a family member has symptoms or tests positive is set out in the section below. **Under no circumstances are parents to send children into school knowing that their child has been in contact with a suspected or confirmed case.** This is so we can keep all of our school community safe.

### **INFECTION PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**

It is vital that we all work together to minimise the risk of any coronavirus outbreak. The government have issued clear guidance on what to do if anyone within your household has any of the three main coronavirus symptoms. The three main symptoms are fever, a continuous dry cough or loss of sense of smell or taste. Please see the table below for what to do if any member of your household shows any of these symptoms.

What to do if...	Action needed	Return to school when...
My child has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not come to school</li> <li>Contact school daily</li> <li>Self-isolate</li> <li>Get a test</li> <li>Inform school immediately about the test result</li> </ul>	The test comes back negative
My child tests positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not come to school</li> <li>Contact school daily</li> <li>Self-isolate for at least 10 days</li> <li>Inform school immediately about the test result</li> </ul>	They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the virus has gone
Somebody in my house has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not come to school</li> <li>Contact school daily</li> <li>Self-isolate</li> <li>Household member to get a test</li> <li>Inform school immediately about the test result</li> </ul>	The household member test is negative.
Somebody in my household tested positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not come to school</li> <li>Contact school daily</li> <li>Self-isolate for 10 days</li> </ul>	The child has completed 10 days of self-isolation
NHS test and trace has identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with symptoms or confirmed coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not come to school</li> <li>Contact school daily</li> <li>Self-isolate for 10 days</li> </ul>	The child has completed 10 days of self-isolation
We/my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not take unauthorised leave in term time</li> </ul>	The quarantine period of 10 days has been completed

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel</li> <li>• Provide information to school as per attendance policy</li> </ul> <p>Returning from a destination where quarantine period is required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not come to school</li> <li>• Contact school daily</li> <li>• Self-isolate for 10 days</li> </ul>	
We have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not come to school</li> <li>• Contact school to discuss distance learning</li> <li>• Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again</li> </ul>	Medical professional informs you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again

Richard Bridgewater  
Headteacher

## INFORMATION

### **School and Governor Contact:**

01453 757251

Facebook @foxmoorprimaryschool

### **Family Lives Helpline:**

0808 800 2222

[www.familylives.org](http://www.familylives.org)

### **Early Help Partnership Families First Plus Stroud:**

01452 328130

[www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk](http://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk)

### **School Nurse Contact:**

0300 421 8959

### **Early Years and Childcare:**

0800 542 02 02

### **Gloucestershire County Council:**

[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk)

### **Friends of Foxmoor (FOF)**

Facebook @friendsoffoxmoorschool

Contact: Natalie Hombrado via the school office

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please find below a list of current visits planned and some important dates. I hope you find it useful. Further dates will be added in subsequent newsletters.

<b>Spring 2021</b>	<b>Term 3</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> February	Dress to Express Day
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day of Term 3
<b>Spring 2021</b>	<b>Term 4</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	First day of Term 4
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Last day of Term 4
<b>Summer 2021</b>	<b>Term 5</b>
19 <sup>th</sup> April	First day of Term 5
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	May Day Bank Holiday
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Last day of Term 5 for children
28 <sup>th</sup> May	Inset Day
<b>Summer 2021</b>	<b>Term 6</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> June	First day of Term 6
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of Term 6 for children
21 <sup>st</sup> July	Inset Day