

TUNE

IN

ON

THURSDAY

Our theme for worship this half term is **Hope**

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this newsletter, which has been delayed for obvious reasons.

Much of the content will focus on organisation of the learning offer available until half term. The planned learning for this half term is available to ALL pupils whether they are being taught in school or at home. From Monday every child will be sent daily "Seesaw" or "Evidence Me" (for EYFS) activities that they will complete either in school if they are present or at home. For children in school this may mean they have items unopened on their journals but this does not matter.

Critical Workers/Vulnerable Pupils

The Government announced a full lockdown with clear "Stay at home" orders because the transmission rates, hospital admissions and death rates have soared in recent weeks. This has been somewhat contradicted by approaches to furlough and the extension of the critical worker criteria, meaning that more pupils are eligible to attend.

We have been overwhelmed with requests for places and currently have amongst the highest number of pupils attending. Our maximum daily registers are exceeding 200 pupils. This means that we have 2 classes in each year group open, with up to 22 children in each class.

We have increased measures in school to keep year group bubbles separated but essentially staff are managing large numbers of pupils as well as preparing and responding to the 250 pupils being taught at home.

We took the decision to remove flexibility for places based on our experience of last lockdown. However, if we send the learning to all pupils via Seesaw and Evidence Me, I believe that we can review this decision. For any parent/carer who can, we would ask that you keep your child at home whenever possible. We cannot

support changing weekly shift patterns but we can offer fixed part time places until half term if children remain eligible to attend.

For any parents/carers who have made requests after Tuesday 5th January at 12.30pm, I am not currently able to make an offer of a place. You will appreciate that I cannot simply keep adding to the large number above. We will send out a "forms" questionnaire (see link below) to these currently attending and if we are able to then offer further places because numbers reduce, we will contact you.

Please know that many of our staff in school are themselves facing the same challenges as you in terms of trying to manage their children/families alongside their jobs. Combining working and home schooling is really hard and we genuinely appreciate that.

Please consider whether you need to contact the school with emails and phone calls, if the reason for this is because you are yourself feeling pressure and frustration. We are trying our best and believe our time is best spent on developing and refining the learning offer for all pupils at this time.

[Forms Questionnaire](#)

Rivers Home/Remote Learning—Updated Information

Details of the updated information regarding Rivers Home Learning are available on our [website](#).

Children in Year 4 - Applying for Middle School place – If you haven't already done so, those children in Year 4 need to have applied for a Middle School place by 15th January 2021. For full details on the application process, please visit [School Admissions](#) website or telephone on 01905 822700 if you need assistance.





Potential Snow Closure/Disruption

As if the current COVID Pandemic is not enough to contend with, we have a forecast for sustained snowfall throughout tonight and tomorrow. If we are not

able to open the school because of health and safety reasons or because we cannot staff the school safely, we will advertise this in the usual way.

- A banner will appear on the website
- Closure will be posted onto Worcestershire Children's First Website
- We will text out to all parents as soon as we are able to, following a decision.

As always, it is our intention to be open, whilst at the same time being prepared.

Applying for September 2021 EYFS school place – If you have a child born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 you need to have applied for a school place by 15th January 2021. You are required to submit an online Local Authority admissions application form when starting school for the first time. Visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/school-admissions to make your application or telephone School Admissions on 01905 822700 if you need assistance. As well as submitting an online application to Worcestershire County Council, you are required to complete the school's Supplementary Sorting Form. Copies are available from the school office or are available on the [school website](#).

Mid-morning snack – All children, in every year group, will need to bring in from home their own mid-morning snack. Snacks must be fruit, small box of dried fruit or a raw vegetable. Please can snacks be sent in separately from lunch boxes to make it easier for children to identify their snack from their lunch.

Jumper and Cardigan orders – The online ordering system will be open on ParentPay from Monday 11th January 2021 until Friday 22nd January 2021 with orders being ready for collection from Monday 1st February 2021. Please visit the [school website](#) for full details on sizes and costs.

Keeping warm in school – As we are having to keep the windows in EYFS open for increased ventilation, coincided with the cold weather we currently experiencing, the school is not as warm as usual. Therefore, you may want to consider adding an extra layer of clothing to your child's uniform, eg a long sleeved t-shirt or a warm vest.

School Milk—Milk deliveries have been cancelled and no future orders will be received until further notice. Coolmilk are updating their system and any payments will be automatically credited for this period. This credit will show on any future pre-payment requests.

Contact details - Please ensure all contact and medical details are up to date. Should you need to inform us of any changes, please email the office spoffice@riverscofe.co.uk.