



Pauntley Church of England Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Friday 5th February 2021



Our termly Value: Courage

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.

1 Corinthians 16:13

Dear Parents/Carers

With only one week to go until half term I am sure everyone is exhausted and looking forward to a bit of a break. Fingers crossed that we can get some clarity on the return to school soon and the children will be back with us and their friends.

Self-testing is continuing amongst the staff and to date we have had no positive tests (although I do not want to tempt fate at all). Staff will continue to test over the half term break to ensure we can act swiftly should we be unfortunate to uncover a positive case of COVID19.

Please be aware that school will resume, to those children that are deemed vulnerable or of critical workers (that have previously secured a place) on **Monday 22nd February** after the half term break. We will await government guidance and inform everyone as soon as possible before admitting further children into the school.

To date we have managed to keep our numbers relatively low and therefore the school is as safe as possible and I would like to thank everyone for helping us to do our bit to minimise the spread of infection, not just throughout our school but the whole Pauntley community. With everyone's efforts, and I know it is not easy for many, we will be able to help minimise the spread within our community and keep everyone, both in and out of school, safe.

Internet Safety Week

Next week is internet safety week across the UK and school will be providing a few activities to engage the children in this. Please look out for the zoom links that will allow you and your children to explore this vital aspect of personal safety.

New Recruit

It is probably about time that I formally introduced Mrs Joanne Jones – although she has already begun the process with her video to Mayhill class earlier this week. We are really excited to have Mrs Jones on board and her enthusiasm for the role at Pauntley is positively infectious. She has already been over a couple of times to meet with Miss Bruce and move in the resources she has collected over her 20 years+ of teaching experience!

All of us at Pauntley are really excited about what she will bring to the team and I am hoping that, pandemic permitting, the children will have a settled, consistent, exciting and industrious second half to the year.

Mrs Jones formally begins with us on Monday 22nd February and will be leading class zoom calls from this point.

Leaving

It is with sadness that we will be saying goodbye to Miss Bruce next Friday. She has been an outstanding addition to the staff team and so much more than a temporary cover. She has embraced Pauntley life and really become a part of the team. I know the children and staff will miss her greatly and I am thankful for the impact she has made in helping our school to move forward. She is a wonderful teacher and we all wish her well as she moves on.

I know that she will want me to pass on her regards to all the children and families and let you know just how much she has enjoyed working at Pauntley. She tells me that she will miss the children, staff and the beautiful morning sunrises.

Please feel free to contact Miss Bruce via the school email address, should you wish to pass on any personal messages of thanks before she leaves.

Broadband

Exciting news! It's coming soon. I know that the school has been waiting for many moons for this day and after several months of badgering people in high places I am pleased to say that it looks like the end of the cable is in site – literally! Fingers crossed we will be connected in a matter of weeks. The school has already invested in new laptops and a server to allow us to provide the children with the equipment to access the full national curriculum and do some amazing things.

This service will also enable us to expand our remote offer should we need to – the limitations of the internet speed, at present, limits the ability to do multiple live calls and access the internet internally. With broadband I am hoping we can start to offer regular worships and other live teaching sessions to supplement the current provision.

Christian Distinctiveness Committee

I have been talking to a few parents regarding the school's status as a Church School and would like to set up a parent group that helps to monitor and develop this important side to our schools ethos. The group would meet termly, when we are able to, to discuss what is going on and how things can be improved for the children.

We are looking for a small group of keen individuals that are willing to give up a little of their time to discuss these matters. The role will involve a minimum of three visits to school; talking with the children and maybe doing some research of other Church schools to see what we can bring to Pauntley to further enhance our provision.

High on the agenda will be:

- Developing the outdoor worship space

- Looking at the school environment and how to ensure this promotes a strong Christian ethos
- Monitoring the impact of worship

If you are interested please send me an email at head@newentfed.org before half term. We will be looking to meet virtually, in the first instance, early next term to discuss our plans. Many thanks.

Whole School Worship

Next Thursday at 10:00am I will be hosting a whole school Worship via zoom. This will be hosted from my Newent school (to ensure a reliable internet connection) and will be a chance for everyone to get together before half term. Please log on using the zoom link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98872455403?pwd=RFdqSTJiYzBucU1CczQxM3A5MXFJUT09>

Meeting ID: 988 7245 5403

Passcode: 6Y84N4

Free School Meal Provision : February Half Term Holiday

For our pupils who are entitled to a Free School Meal, the Local Authority are issuing vouchers for w/c 15th February 2021. You will need to apply for these direct with Gloucestershire County Council, via the link below :-

<https://gloucestershire-consult.objective.co.uk/public/a2lcustomerfeedback/freeschoolmeals/schoolmeals>

As you progress through your application, the website will ask you “**Have you previously applied for Vouchers during the October or Christmas Holidays, either yourself or via your School?**” Please ensure you respond with “NO” so you can progress your application.

The portal will be live on the Gloucestershire County Council website until today (Friday), closing at 5pm. The voucher scheme will only be running through the Half Term break in February – when school resumes w/c 22nd February 2021 we will continue with online supermarket vouchers.

Free HEALTHY START vitamins

Vitamins are now available FREE in Gloucestershire as part of the Healthy Start voucher scheme, helping to give children the best start in life.

About Healthy Start Vouchers

If someone is pregnant or has a child under 4 and they are getting benefits, they may be able to get Healthy Start vouchers to help buy some basic foods and vitamins. They will also qualify if they are under 18 and pregnant, even if they don't get any benefits.

Pregnant women and children over 1 and under 4 can get one £3.10 voucher per week. Children under 1 can get two £3.10 vouchers (£6.20) per week.

The Healthy Start scheme provides vouchers to spend with local retailers and also gives people access to free vitamins distributed via the Children and Families Hub from Shire Hall.



Gloucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL

New! Healthy Start Vitamins

Healthy Start Vitamins are recommended for pregnant women and children from birth and who are having less than 500ml (one pint) of infant formula a day.

- Healthy Start women's vitamin tablets contain Folic Acid, Vitamin C and Vitamin D
- Healthy Start children's vitamin drops contain Vitamin A, Vitamin C and Vitamin D

Healthy Start Vitamins are suitable for vegetarian and halal diets, and free from milk, egg, gluten, soya and peanut residues

Healthy Start Food Vouchers

Healthy Start Food Vouchers can be used to buy

- Plain fresh, tinned or frozen fruit and vegetables
- Fresh, dried, and tinned pulses
- Milk
- Infant formula milk

Food vouchers can be spent in around 270 stores in Gloucestershire including:

- Corner shops
- Food co-ops
- Greengrocers
- Market stalls
- Milk floats or vans
- Pharmacies
- Supermarkets



How to claim Healthy Start vouchers

A way initial application form needs to be completed then vouchers will be sent to eligible families. Visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/healthystart for more information and to apply

How to use your Vitamin Vouchers to get vitamins

- 1 **Email healthystart@gloucestershire.gov.uk with the following information:**
 - A photo of the voucher(s)
 - Which vitamins you want? (the children vitamin drops or vitamin tablets for pregnant women)
 - Your postal address to receive the vitamins
- 2 **Your vitamins will then be posted to you.** Please discard the vitamin voucher.
- 3 The issuing unit will continue to post your vitamin vouchers every 8 weeks, repeat step 1 to exchange the vouchers into vitamins.
- 4 If you are pregnant, ensure you tell the Healthy Start helpline once your child is born, so your child can also receive vitamin drops 0345 607 6823



Joke of the Week

*Why was Cinderella never picked for the school football team?
Because she kept running away from the ball?*

Mr T Larner
Headteacher