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Friday 20th January 2023

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a good week! I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mrs Mulligan for all of her hard work organising the Young Voices trip last week - I know it was a great success and a huge amount to organise.

Congratulations to our Platinums this week:

Olivia Bowers	Toby Kania
Charlie Nottage	Zane Catchpole
Beau Shephard	Scarlett O'Hanlon
Poppy Henstock	

Dates for your diary

Friday 11th February - Wear your scarf to school day (see below for details)
Wednesday 15th February - Valentines themed disco
Friday 17th February - INSET Day (School closed to pupils)
Monday 20th February - Half Term week
Monday 27th February - Parents Evening week
Thursday 26th January - Cross country club starts
Friday 27th January - Netball club starts
May 17th - 19th 2023 - Y5&6 residential trip
July 6th & 7th 2023 - Y3&4 residential trip

Industrial Action - Teachers

You may be aware from the media that one of the national teaching unions, the NEU, announced yesterday that their members have voted to take industrial action. This action, commonly known as strike action, will be happening on four dates across February and March as follows:

- Wednesday 1 February 2023
 - Thursday 2 March 2023
 - Wednesday 15 March 2023.
 - Thursday 16 March 2023
- The NEU statement about this is:

The ballot is a result of failure by the Secretary of State in England and the employers in Wales to ensure enough money is available to pay a fully-funded increase in pay for teachers which at least matches inflation, and which begins to restore lost pay.

While the **exact impact** of the strikes on our school is not yet known for certain, I am keen to advise you of the dates so you can make contingency plans just in case your child's class is impacted by the strike. Due to the nature of the rules around strike action, it is unlikely that the school will be able to give you very much notice about any closed classes or changes to the usual school provision.

We are currently working with the staff to make preparations and we will communicate information to you as soon as we are able to. **Please note - currently, I do not believe that any of our classes will be affected but I know that this could change.**

Before and After School Wraparound Care

Before and After School Care fees are charged to your child's parentpay account.

Please ensure these balances are fully paid by the end of each month or if you are now paying via any of the nursery voucher schemes please let us know so that we can allocate your funds to your child's parentpay account. For next month, all bills **MUST** be cleared by February Half Term please.

Wear your Scarf to School day!

On Friday 11th February we will be joining in with Wear your Scarf to School day. This is in support of Children's Mental Health Week. Children are invited to wear a favourite scarf or snood all day in school. Our School Council would like to raise funds to buy some more "Little People, Big Dreams" books, which would fit in with the SCARF theme of Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience and Friendship, so we are asking for a small donation in exchange for wearing your scarf.

We will also hold a cake sale after school and will be running a free "Guess the length of the scarf" competition. We have been gifted a special scarf, which will be displayed in a large jar, and invite children to play the game. The child whose guess is nearest to the actual length of the scarf will win the scarf!

Swimming lessons (years 2,3 and 4)

Please can you check that PE kit is labelled with your child's name to help us in the swimming changing rooms.

Advice for parents and carers on common winter bugs and viruses

With lots of common winter bugs and viruses circulating at the moment, the NHS in Gloucestershire, including the Paediatric consultant team, has developed advice for parents and carers of children to help care for them at home or know when health advice may be needed.

There is understandable concern amongst the public following reports of children and young people with Strep A or Scarlet Fever going on to develop serious illness. However, health leaders are reassuring people that Scarlet Fever is usually a very mild illness that can be easily treated with antibiotics, and it is very rare for children to go on to develop the more serious illness known as invasive group A strep (iGAS). Please do read and bookmark the advice and share with friends and family:

<https://www.nhsglos.nhs.uk/news/scarlet-fever-advice-for-parents-and-carers/>

Safeguarding

We recently surveyed all children in the school about their online experiences and we were pleased with the level of understanding that our pupils demonstrated about keeping themselves safe online. Here is a great resource for you to look at with your children to help them stay safe online further: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Dinner menus

The current dinner menu is now pinned inside the Newsletter noticeboard on the wall bottom playground. The menu is also on our website, including the dairy-free and gluten-free menus. Please click this link to view and download them should you wish to.. <https://www.twyningschool.co.uk/news/lunch-menu/70836>

Milk at School

As most of you will know, once children reach the age of 5, they are no longer entitled to free school milk. If you still wish your child/children to have milk at school, and they are now 5 or over, visit the Coolmilk website to register safely online; simply visit [Cool Milk - the UK's leading school and nursery milk supplier](#) and select 'register my child for school milk'. Children over (or approaching) age 5 can still enjoy their school milk for around £16 a term once their free entitlement ends.

Parentpay accounts

Please keep an eye on your children's parent pay balances and top up when necessary. Please if possible make sure any outstanding dinner balances are cleared each week, or load up the balance in advance which is the preferred way.

Free School Meals

If you think your family meets the criteria for Free School Meals please click on this link to apply. School dinners are now £2.36 each - a small rise from the old price of £2.34 per meal.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

Contact

Please feel free to make contact with me via email head@twyning.gloucs.sch.uk should you need to speak to me. During evenings and weekends, I may not be able to respond to you straight away but I will make contact with you during normal working hours as soon as I can. Many thanks for all of your support.

Kindest regards



Mrs Lucy Halling, Headteacher

