

Redbrook C of E Primary School Newsletter

Striving Together To Be The Best We Can Be



No. 74, 23rd October 2020

Dear All,

Thanks for your cooperation this term with all the measures we have needed to take to ensure the continued safety of our school community. I really appreciate your support and am pleased to report that we have managed to remain free from Covid-19 so far. I am aware that it continues to be a significant risk and we will continue to maintain our enhanced cleaning procedures, handwashing routines, separation of classes whilst inside and social distancing measures. Despite the different approach we have had to take, it has been fabulous to have the majority of our children in school and learning. We have assessed the gaps and teaching has been addressing this whilst covering our planned curriculum. Our children are remarkably adaptable to the new routines and this is now 'normal'.

We are planning to go ahead with our parents meetings as previously planned, although this is now going to be remotely. We will offer a virtual meeting or telephone call during the week beginning 9th November. This will be an opportunity for you to ask any questions and for your child's class teacher to let you know where they are with their learning. Further details have been emailed to you. This is an important part of our relationship with you and if you feel that there are any difficulties that this may cause you then please get in touch with your child's class teacher so we can work to ensure you are able to access this 'meeting'.

Thank you for responding to our consultation about lunchtime. We have had overwhelming support to bring our bubbles together at this time of day. As the seasons change and it gets colder we are hoping to be able to provide hot meals most days during the next term. A new menu will be available on Parentpay as soon as we have it available. Please don't forget, if you think you may be eligible for free school meals, please apply here: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals. Even if your child receives free school meals during the Reception and KS1 years as part of the universal offer of free school meals, if you are in receipt of benefits you may be eligible to claim free school meals which gives the school additional funding to support your child's learning. We would strongly encourage you to please do this.

Our enquiry learning is going well and our questions will be the same as we continue to explore them over a longer period of time. This is to enable us to go deeper into the learning without being rushed. Our children are enjoying finding out and are inevitably, coming up with more questions!

It is obviously now the time to start thinking about hats, scarves and gloves and we ask that you please label all these items with your child's name so that we can reunite any lost items with their rightful owner. If you don't have time for sewing nametapes, please use a sharpie or even a biro! There is nothing more frustrating than losing warm clothes when it's cold outside.

I continue to keep a close eye on the news and will keep you posted should there be any further developments. Try to enjoy the break, rest and relax if at all possible. Take care everyone.

**Sarah Helm, Executive Head Teacher,
The Wye Forest Federation**

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Logs

Thank You



for your kindness

We can't thank Mal enough for his help in chopping and organising the logs from our silver birch tree. The sale of the logs raised a wonderful **£175** which we have given to FORS. Thank you everyone who bought some. We hope they keep you lovely and warm this winter.



Harvest Festival

We were delighted to see so many of you join us for our Harvest Festival Zoom a couple of weeks ago. It was a wonderful celebration of the children's learning in RE this term and a good time to reflect on what we are grateful for. We hope you enjoyed it. We are also looking into ways we may be able to share the service with everyone via our website and will keep you updated.

We would also like to say huge thank you on behalf of the Forest Food Bank. Your donations were so generous as always. They have now been delivered safely so that they can be distributed to those in need.

Robin Class

In Robin Class, we have started a new enquiry called 'How far can you travel?' We are learning about transport and will be making our own vehicles in design and technology over the course of next term. Once the frames for the vehicles are made, the children will be bringing them home to complete as a project with you.



We have also been reading a new class book - Wild! by Emily Hughes. The children have slowly been working their way through this story which has the most incredible illustrations. They have also been developing their own observation and drawing skills to recreate some of the images. I wonder if they can tell you about the little girl in the story?

The whole school has also been loving playing violin—here are some pictures of Robins playing!



They are halfway through their lessons and have started using the bows to play this week.



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Kingfisher Class



Shortly before lockdown the Kingfishers entered the Rotary Club Art competition. Incorporating the theme 'Hands around the Forest' with our enquiry topic about the Victorians, we submitted paintings of Foresters during Victorian times. We are very proud to announce that Ona was awarded 3rd prize in her age 9-11 category and Gracie was awarded a 'Highly Commended' for her work in the 7 – 9 category. All the entries were given a £10 WH Smiths token each for their contribution!



Thank you!

The goose eggs kindly donated by Mac's grandparents have proved to be a great hit with the Kingfishers. We have decorated them, designed and devised cots and clothes for them, nurtured and nursed them and the children have even set up an egg babysitting crèche to give all carers a much needed break (pardon the pun!). Many thanks!



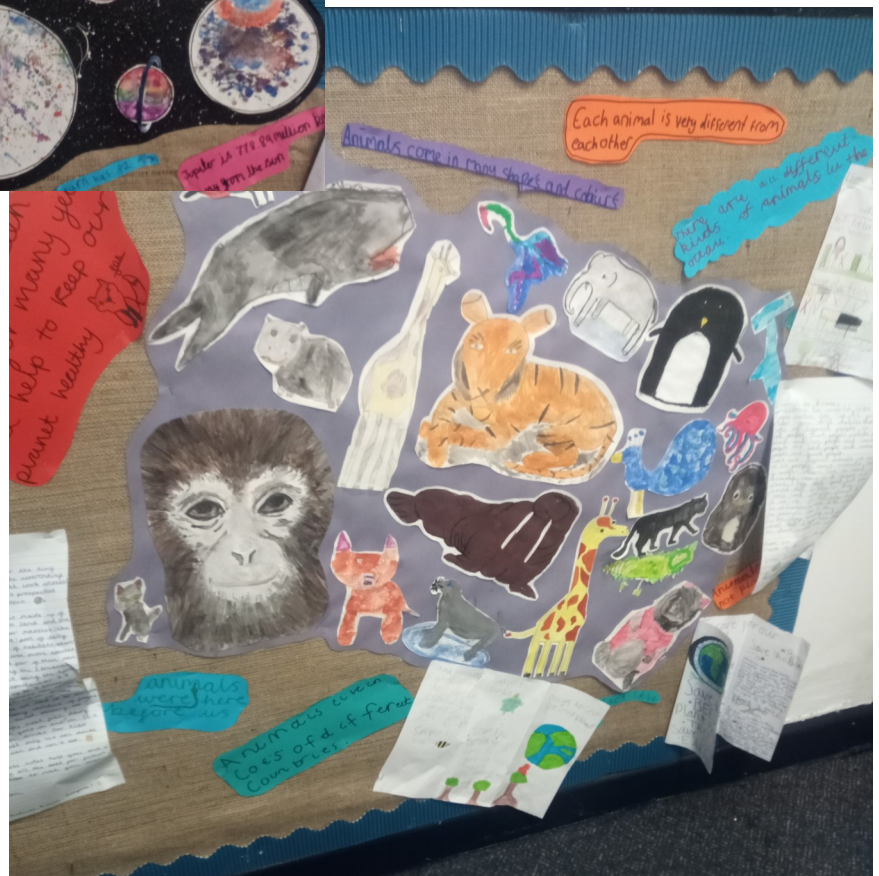
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Kingfisher Class contd....

We would like to share photos of the display we have put together in class based on our class book 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers. It inspired us to find out about different aspects of our planet – animals, our bodies, the landscape and our solar system. We also wrote letters to Mrs le T's new baby girl – Ada Grace, in the same style as the author, as a way to help her understand this new world she has come into.



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FORS news

For anyone who doesn't know me yet, I'm Ruth Brown and I have two daughters in Kingfishers - Isla (yr 6) and Esther (yr 3). As the new FORS (Friends Of Redbrook School) Chair, I look forward to a year of fund raising and fun activities to entertain our children and support the school.

We'll be communicating through Facebook, so if you're not already a member of our (closed) group, please hunt us out and request to join. The group is called: Friends of Redbrook School. Do speak to me if you can't find the group and I can send an invite to you directly. If you're not on Facebook you won't miss out because Anna will continue to send messages to all parents.

Ruth Brown

Primary School Applications for 2021

If your child was born between **1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017** they can start school in the school year starting 1st September 2021. If you live in Gloucestershire, you need to apply for a place by 15th January 2020.

To find out more and apply go to:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions/>

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, all the School Admissions Team have to adapt to working within the strict guidelines set by the government so there will be a reduced team available to answer phone calls. Please email school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk with any queries, and they will reply as soon as they can.

Please pass this onto anyone who might be interested! Help keep Redbrook School thriving!

COVID

If anyone in your family has symptoms please let us know and follow government guidelines re: isolating. The whole family needs to stay at home, more information can be found online at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

...or search 'gov stay at home guidance'. Make sure you are following the advice for your country (ie England or Wales) as they may differ. We have more COVID information on our website under the link on the main menu.

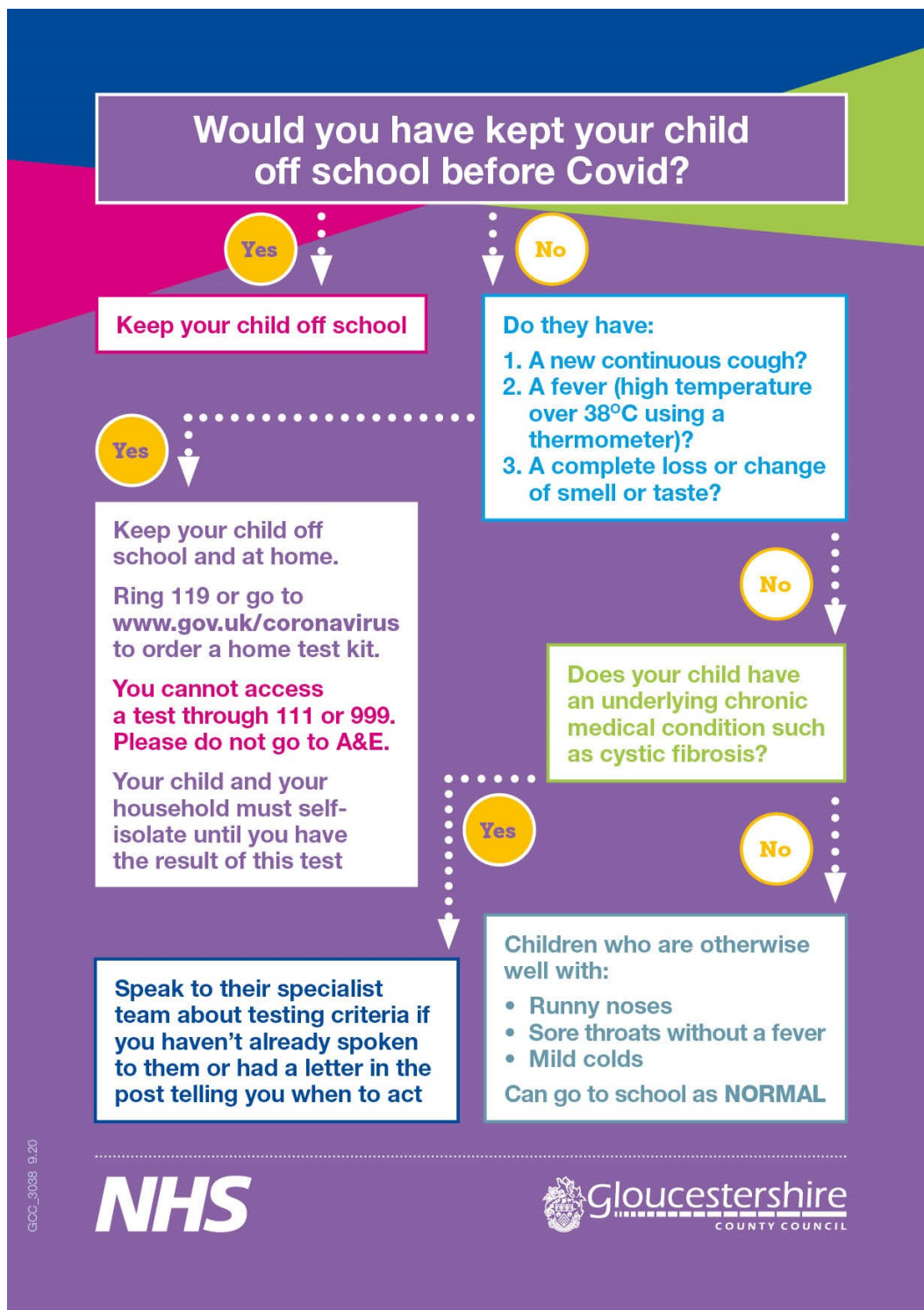
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COVID NEWS

- Our Blended Learning Strategy is now on the website. This explains how we provide teaching for your child if your child needs to stay at home due to Covid. You can read more about it under 'COVID' in the main menu, or go to:
https://www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk/web/blended_learning_during_covid/517244
- We have been made aware that there have been positive test results for children in Y13 at Monmouth Comprehensive school and in year 13 and 10 at Monmouth Haberdashers. Please be vigilant for symptoms of a high temperature, a new **continuous cough** or a loss of the sense of smell or taste.





YEAR 1 children: Ellwood Youth Football Club needs you!

Ellwood Youth Football Club are a non profit, Voluntary Organisation, they have been running 6 years, and have children from all over the Forest of Dean. They try to help as many children and parents as they can, especially with these uncertain times, it brings some well needed distraction, great for making new friends, and great form of exercise.

They have a new group with limited spaces for Year 1 starting Tuesday 27th October 5.30pm-6.30pm at Lydney Leisure centre.

Angel Hunt!

Deb Orriss, Pioneer Evangelist, Gloucester and Forest Centre of Mission, is organising an Angel Hunt (no, not a Bear Hunt!)



During December there will be some knitted angels hiding in the shops in Coleford for you to find. There will be prizes for whoever finds the most, and look out for the Angel Record Sheet which will be sent out in November for you to fill in.

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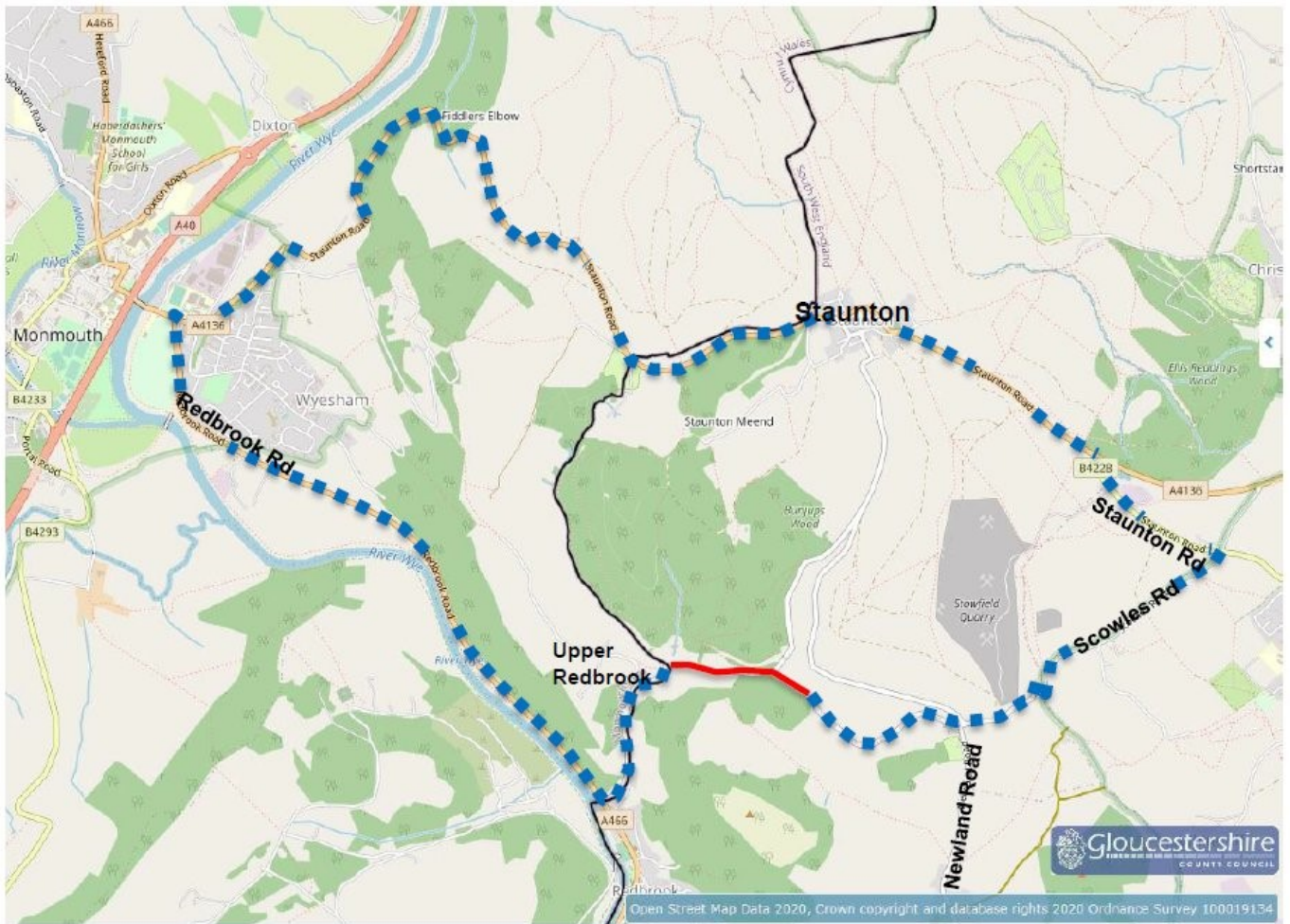
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Redbrook Road Closure 2nd-27th November

Please note that after half term, the road in red on the map below will be closed. Gloucestershire Highways suggested diversion is in blue. Given the traffic in the mornings it might be quicker to do the Newland, Clearwell, Stowe Mork route past the quarry down to Bigsweir and along by the river.

The road will be fully closed (24/7) from 2nd Nov to 27th Nov between County boundary and Swanpool Wood.

Old Pumping Station – site map and diversion route



October—December Term 2020 — Redbrook Primary School

Please check website for updates!



Day	Date	Class	Event
Friday	23/10/20		LAST DAY OF TERM
HALF TERM HOLIDAY			
Monday	2/11/20	INSET DAY	INSET DAY
Tuesday	3/11/20		FIRST DAY OF TERM
Wednesday	4/11/20		
Thursday	5/11/20		
Friday	6/11/20		
Monday	9/11/20	Both classes	Virtual Parents Evening—details via email
Tuesday	10/11/20	Both classes	Virtual Parents Evening—details via email
Wednesday	11/11/20	Both classes	Virtual Parents Evening—details via email
Thursday	12/11/20	Both classes	Virtual Parents Evening—details via email
Friday	13/11/20	Both classes	Virtual Parents Evening—details via email
Monday	16/11/20		
Tuesday	17/11/20		
Wednesday	18/11/20		
Thursday	19/11/20		
Friday	20/11/20		
Monday	23/11/20		
Tuesday	24/11/20		
Wednesday	25/11/20		
Thursday	26/11/20		
Friday	27/11/20		

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November 2020 — January 2021 — Redbrook Primary School

Please check website for updates!



Day	Date	Class	Event
Monday	30/11/20		
Tuesday	1/12/20		
Wednesday	2/12/20		
Thursday	3/12/20		
Friday	4/12/20		
Monday	7/12/20		
Tuesday	8/12/20		
Wednesday	9/12/20		
Thursday	10/12/20		
Friday	11/12/20		
Monday	14/12/20		
Tuesday	15/12/20		
Wednesday	16/12/20		
Thursday	17/12/20		
Friday	18/12/20		LAST DAY OF TERM
HOLIDAY			
Monday	4/1/21		FIRST DAY OF TERM
Tuesday	5/1/21		
Wednesday	6/1/21		
Thursday	7/1/21		
Friday	8/1/21		

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