



Coaley Church of England Academy

The Street, Coaley, Dursley, Gloucestershire, GL11 5EB

Executive Headteacher Mr Richard Lucas

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As a family, we flourish

Love everyone as I have loved you: John 15: 12

Friday 1st December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have all had a lovely week and have been enjoying the crisp starts to the day, although the frosty car windows are less fun. With this weather, we all need a bit more time in the morning to scrape the windows so please give yourself the space so you all drive safely.

As a Church school, I have included a quote from the Bible on our value this term, Courage:

Be of good courage and he shall strengthen your heart: Psalms, 31:24

In school, we've been getting ready for the Christmas play at the village hall on 13th December. The children have really dived in and are singing the songs, learning lines and acting like professionals. It's a wonderful opportunity for lots of children to share their talents and shine, and, as a small school, everyone can be involved. I know you will be blown away with all the Coaley children and are looking forward to seeing all the hard work on stage.

I'd like to say 'thank you' to you all as we have had to adapt slightly due to some staffing absences this week. Your support, care and kindness is so lovely and shows the school's values of 'flourishing as a family' has really shone through. Can I say a HUGE thank you to the staff who have stepped up to help each other, and to you all for bearing with us and know that we only want the best for your child.

Yours

Richard Lucas

Executive Headteacher

Coaley Lights switch on

Don't forget this weekend on Sunday 3rd December the children of Coaley have been invited to sing at the Christmas light switch on at Coaley Village Hall. Children will be singing at 4:15 and the event is open from 4pm.



Christmas

It's December and that means Christmas is on it's way!!

The play is being practised and performed and the children are in fine voice and learning the actions.

We have put the order in for Christmas lunch so we're ready to go for the 20th Dec. Don't forget that day is also Christmas jumper day. It doesn't have to be a jumper, just something nice and festive.

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we don't have many Christmas decorations, if anyone has any spare they can donate to school we would be really grateful. Thank you to everyone who has already donated.

The children are also busy making items to sell at the Christmas fair after school on the 21st December and will soon be making Christingles ready for the Christingle service on the 19th.

School Calendar Dates

December

Sunday 3rd December – Coaley Christmas lights switch on including Carols from the school.

Wednesday 6th December – New Flu Vaccination date

Wednesday 13th December – Christmas Play - Afternoon performance at 1.30pm and evening performance at 6pm

Thursday 14th December – Small schools Netball festival for KS2 – Details to follow

Tuesday 19th December – Christingle Service in Church

Wednesday 20th December – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 21st December – Christmas Fayre after school

Friday 22nd December – Last Day of Term

Proud Cloud Certificates:

Robins: Poppie and William

Starlings: Megan

Owls: Juno

Value Certificates:

Robins: Freddie

Starlings: Dakota

Owls: Leo

Growth Mindset Certificates:

Robins: Reggie for using his inference skills to explain how characters feel

Starlings: Finley for continuing to push himself out of his comfort zones

Owls: Daisy for taking on feedback and applying it to her work

****All parents are invited to join us for Worship each Friday at 2.45pm in the School Hall****

Please note - Dates and times are subject to change. We will advise you of any changes as soon as possible.

AS A FAMILY, WE FLOURISH.

St Bartholomews Church and Coaley Produce Show
present

**The Big Christmas
Light Switch On!**

**Christmas Cards and
Wrapping Paper**

**Hot sausage rolls
homemade cakes and mulled wine**

**Make your Christmas gifts
with Paint-a-Pot**

**Entertainment from Woodford Silver Band
Coaley Hand Bell Ringers
and the children of Coaley School**

Craft Stalls

Coaley Village Hall Sunday 3rd Dec 16.00-18.30

A Very Coaley Christmas

Please join us for a

Festive Winter Weekend

Sat 2 & Sun 3 December (11am - 4pm)



at **The Museum in the Park, Stroud**

FREE, fun, Victorian-inspired activities to enjoy with family & friends of all ages!

Decoration & Gift Making (11am - 4pm Sat & Sun)

Parlour Games (11am - 1pm Sat & Sun)

Quiz Trails (11am - 4pm Sat & Sun)

Tea Duelling (2.30pm Sat & Sun) **Carol Singing** (4pm Sat)

Storytelling (2pm & 3pm Sun)

Dramatic Reading: 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens (4pm Sun)

Hot drinks & cakes for sale and 10% off in the Museum Shop

Come dressed as a Victorian and you'll receive a complimentary hot drink or gift!

Museum closed from 4 December 2023, reopening 27 January 2024

www.museuminthepark.org.uk

Free School Meal (FSM) voucher scheme – Message from GCC

Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for December 2023 Winter holiday will be open from midday 28 November until midday on 12 December. Voucher emails will be sent from week commencing 18 December.

If you are expecting vouchers please check your junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there.

If you have not received your vouchers by 20 December, please email childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

This Winter holiday period, Gloucestershire County Council will provide families in receipt of Free School Meals, who sign up to this offer, with vouchers to assist with food costs during the school holidays. The vouchers are funded through grant funding we have received, and they are separate to that of term time free school meals.

The scheme is for children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (benefits-related) free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire. **We are unable to consider college and sixth form students, nor children who receive infant free school meals (available to all children from reception to year 2) - they are not eligible for this scheme.**

Families who have signed up to the scheme or who are already registered will receive a total of £15 per child.

To find out more about the scheme and to apply, you can visit the Holiday FSM vouchers webpage.

Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for December 2023 holiday vouchers- they will already have been included. Families that have previously signed up will need to contact us with any changes to their circumstances (e.g. if the number of children eligible increases or decreases). To ensure we reach all those who are eligible, we are encouraging parents that have not previously signed up, to sign up as soon as they can.

Please note we check eligibility for the scheme by cross-referencing with the term-time free school meal register, so please make sure you are registered beforehand.

Using vouchers – vouchers will only be awarded once the parent has registered for the scheme and cannot be backdated. Vouchers are valid for 6 months, although should be used in the holiday period in which they are awarded. If vouchers are not claimed and have expired, they cannot be re-issued. Vouchers not received should be queried via email to childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk by the end of the holiday period.