



## Coaley Church of England Academy

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

Executive Headteacher Mr Richard Lucas

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18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we finish the term I first of all want to say a massive thank you to all of you for your continued support over the last few months. I think that the true Coaley spirit has shone through as we have all look after each other and tried to keep as safe as possible by following the guidelines and sticking to the rules. It's definitely been a team effort, even as we've had to make some quick changes to make sure that you have a fun and peaceful Christmas. My hope (and I'm sure yours too!) is that things start to calm down in the Spring term and we can return to some sort of normality very soon.

I also wanted to update you on last Friday's Parents' Forum. This was a chance for parents to pose questions and find out more about what we're doing in school, or just to give your views on a chosen subject. We spoke about a number of topics, including COVID and how well the school is progressing this year.

- First, we discussed the school's response to COVID and what will happen if we enter another lockdown or a class bubble/child has to isolate. Luckily, we have a clear Remote Learning policy in place and this will start up as soon as your child is not in school due to COVID. I also shared the Government's proposed changes to the KS1 and KS2 SATs which was in the news recently. The KS2 reading and maths tests will happen as normal and the KS2 writing assessment and KS1 tests will be by teacher assessment only.
- We spoke about the COVID catch-up funding and how the school is spending the additional money we've been given by the Government. There are 5-key areas for the spend and we've had to dip into the school's budget to pay for it as we have greater needs than we've been given funding for. The full report should now be on the school website. The 5 areas are:
  - To purchase assessments so we could find out what children remembered and what they did not know as a result of the lockdown
  - To support extra interventions and teaching to help children to close the gaps on lost learning
  - To provide additional nurture and therapeutic support for children
  - To release leaders and teachers to strip back the curriculum so we focus on the key knowledge the children need to know
  - To buy additional resources and time to release staff to implement our Remote Learning policy
- We also discussed the huge progress the school has made this term in terms of the School Improvement Plan. The quality of teaching just goes from strength to strength, with children achieving amazing things and doing so well. I shared the outcomes from some of the DGAT monitoring visits we've had and how positive they are about what we're doing and how fantastic the staff are in helping your children to learn loads.
- And finally, we picked up a few issues as a result of parents' questions. We discussed:
  - The up and coming wraparound care which will start after Easter, starting with breakfast club to after school care. We are busy sorting this out as we speak.
  - The potential return of hot school dinners. I shared that Caterlink (our current school dinner provider) cannot start them at Coaley yet due to their staffing issues as a result of COVID. We are also looking out for additional Midday staff to help us safely serve hot dinners when Caterlink finally find the staff to start! As soon as I hear more from Caterlink, I will let you know.
  - We talked about the slippery mud on the field for the Robins collection which we have now changed to make this safer.

I hope that gives you a flavour of the Forum and I hope to see more of you at the next one next term.

I hope you all have a safe and relaxing Christmas and New Year. I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Monday 4<sup>th</sup> is an INSET day where the staff will be taking part in their second training day on introducing philosophy lessons in school for children.

Yours

Richard Lucas

Executive Headteacher

### Christmas Dress Up Day

What a colourful Christmas dress up day we had in school last Friday. It was a fun day of festive lunch, activities, games, and even a visit from Santa Claus (or was it Mrs Claus). The best thing is we raised **£93.70** for Save the Children and FOCS. Thank you to FOCS for the lovely treat of a selection box for each child. Thank you to everyone!

### School Council - Prayer Garden

You should have received a parent mail earlier in the week regarding the creation of a prayer garden that the school council are working on. We want to create a space for the children to sit and reflect, to be calm and think about themselves and others. The space we have identified is outside the Owl's classroom, by the back door. They have come up with the idea of a design competition. They have written a letter to all the children as a competition over the Christmas break to come up with ideas. The closing date for the competition is 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021.



### Our Festive Window

Most of you by now have been able to admire our Christmas display through the central window, but not all of you. So here it is! For the Starling's parents in particular who don't get into come into the school grounds. The children have made a special bauble which they will be bringing home with them today.



### Thank you for the gifts

Thank you from us all for the wonderful gifts. We really appreciate your kindness and generosity. All the staff at Coaley would like to wish you a *Very Merry Christmas.*

**Proud Cloud Certificates:**

**Robins:** Elise

**Starlings:** Joseph

**Owls:** Oscar

**Values Certificates:**

**Robins:** Stephanie

**Starlings:** Poppy

**Owls:** Sam

**Growth Mindset Certificates:**

**Robins:** Esme for super writing this week, finishing her newspaper report about Flat Stanley.

**Starlings:** Oscar for putting all his skills into practice in his maths paper and not giving up even when it got really tricky.

**Owls:** Amelia for always having a “can do” attitude and putting in 100% effort to all of your work.

**Reporting COVID cases during the holidays**

The email to use is [dgatcovid@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:dgatcovid@glosdioc.org.uk) This email address will be checked frequently and we will contact the Headteacher if there is a case reported in your school. This is in line with the below guidance;

*A 6-day window has been identified after the final day of teaching in which schools should remain contactable so that they can assist with contact tracing. This is in line with the information that has been shared previously by Public Health.*

*The DfE recognises that the need to support the tracing process will reduce dramatically over the course of the 6 days as the majority of cases should be identified earlier in the week.*

*Following this clarification, it is recommended that:*

- *Parents/carers and staff are informed that they must continue to inform the school of confirmed cases if symptoms developed within 48 hours of last being in school.*
- *Parents/carers of pupils and staff who were not symptomatic but tested positive within 48 hours of last being in school also need to let the school know.*
- *Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since last being in school, the school should not be notified. Parents and carers should then follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.*
- *An e-mail address or text messaging service is shared with parents and carers and publicised on the school’s website to facilitate point 1.*

*All confirmed cases continue to be reported to the health protection team: [healthprotection@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:healthprotection@gloucestershire.gov.uk)*



**WE ARE COALEY**

~

**We Believe**

**We Respect**

**We Belong**