

## Newsletter

11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### Sunday's Government Announcement

Following last night's government announcement, please see below a joint statement from the Forest of Dean Headteachers:

Following the Prime Minister's announcement last night, West Gloucestershire Schools Partnership (WGSP) Headteachers' Group would like to clarify collectively that, in the short-term nothing has changed – our school like those in the rest of the country, remains closed to all pupils, other than those children whose parents are key workers who have previously booked childcare provision and those children deemed vulnerable.

The announcement last night encouraged those who cannot work from home to start to return to their jobs however please be aware that we are not able to accept children of these workers into school at present.

The Prime Minister indicated that the earliest that schools would open on a phased basis to more pupils is the 1<sup>st</sup> of June - and that this is likely to be for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. As yet there is no further guidance on what this will look like. As soon as guidance is issued from the government, we will start to make plans and keep you informed.

We appreciate that the uncertainty surrounding future planning remains difficult for us all, but know that you, like us, will want to ensure that every step is taken to make our school as safe as possible for all members of our school community whilst we take these tentative steps towards re-opening.

Thank you for your continued understanding and patience and be reassured we will keep you informed of any changes as soon as we have notification from the government.

The safety of children and staff remain the top priority for both myself and the governors. Having had a small number of key worker children attending school throughout lockdown, we have been able to explore some of the issues around social distancing. We now have a clear idea of what we will need to address in the next few weeks in order to produce a safe and viable way forwards.

### GCC Emergency Living Fund

The GCC emergency living fund is now live. This provides enhanced support for families on welfare and is a part of a 40% increase in funding that GCC is providing to support people through the COVID-19 outbreak. More information on eligibility and application can be found at:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/gloucestershire-welfare-support-scheme>.

### The Long Table Project



Gloucester Diocese have launched the Long Table project:

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Flyer-to-go-out-to-individuals.pdf>

Seven take-away meals can be ordered through this initiative for £25 and delivery to your door is free of charge.

**If cost is a barrier for you then the project provides meals that have been prepaid which can be given to you free of charge.** There is also the option to make a donation to pay for meals for those who are struggling financially.

Contact: 01594 715785 or [forest@thelongtableonline.com](mailto:forest@thelongtableonline.com)

Rev Joe can also provide more information: [joeknight@outlook.com](mailto:joeknight@outlook.com)

## Staff emails

Our systems were upgraded overnight last night, this is part of a wider scheme which will further enhance the way we are able to communicate with you and your children at home. All teachers are now able to access their emails. Staff will be contacting you today with a consultation document regarding our new Relationship and Sex Education Policy. This is in relation to changes in guidance around the teaching of RSE that come into effect from September 2020.

This week's value - Perseverance