



Reopening of School—Monday 8th March

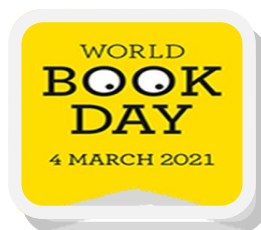
Following the Government’s announcement that schools will reopen for all children on Monday 8th March, an information letter was circulated to all parents by email on 23rd February, giving details of the new timetable for dropping off and collection of children, as follows:

Y3 (Juniper, Cherry,)	Start 8:40am Meet teacher on the top playground	Finish at 3:05pm Collected by parents on the lower playground
Y4 (Willow & Elm)	Start 8:45am Meet teacher on the top playground	Finish at 3:10pm Collected by parents on the lower playground
Y5 (Cedar, Oak)	Start 8:50am Meet teacher on the top Playground	Finish at 3:15pm Collected by Parents on the lower playground
Y6 (Redwood & Maple)	Start 8:55am Meet teacher on the top Playground	Finish at 3:20pm Collected by Parents on the lower playground

Please refer to the letter for further information. If you did not receive your letter, please contact the school office to request a copy.

World Book Day

World Book Day this year is on Thursday 4th March. To celebrate this, we are very lucky to have a virtual visit from the author Ben Davis. Ben is going to be talking to us all about being an author, from how he gets his ideas, to how he actually gets a book to be made. Ben is also going to talk to us about some of his books. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to hear from an author and we will continue to work on what we have learnt about becoming an author in class. If you wish to find out more about Ben Davis before his virtual visit, his website is: www.bendavisauthor.com



Red Nose Day—19th March

We will be taking part in this year’s Red Nose Day on 19th March. We would like children to create, dress up or present (video, picture, poem, etc) a superhero. This could be a famous character, people that they think are superheroes, e.g doctors, nurses, etc, or they can create their own superhero, thinking about the qualities their superhero might have. This is a fund raising event and all we ask is that children donate £1 to charity on the day.



School Uniform

Please can we remind parents that when children return to school on the 8th, they return in full school uniform, along with school shoes. If there are any problems regarding school uniform, please contact the school.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Times Tables Rockstars Championships—Wednesday 24th February to Tuesday 2nd March

Thursday 4th March—World Book Day

Monday 8th March—School reopens for all children

Science Week:
The school will be celebrating this during the week Monday 8th to Friday 12th March

Friday 19th March—Red Nose Day

Thursday 1st April—school finishes for Easter.

Inset Day— Monday 19th April. Children not in

All children return to school on Tuesday 20th April

Thank you parents and carers for your continued support and positive comments during these times!

Further dates to follow





The school will be celebrating British Science Week from Monday 8th March to Friday 12th March with lots of exciting activities, investigations and events organised for the children in the afternoons linked to this year's theme of innovating for the future. Alongside the activities organised during the school day, we are running the annual British Science Week poster competition and would really like all children to take part in creating their own poster about innovating for the future. For more information about this competition, please see the letter sent out on Tuesday 23rd February. We look forward to seeing all of the children's fantastic entries and celebrating Science week at CWJS.

Year 6 Slimbridge Wetland Centre Virtual Event

We were very lucky in Year 6 this week to have a virtual Zoom session with Sue from Slimbridge Wetland Centre linked to our Science unit this term on Evolution and inheritance. During the session, we learnt all about the species of birds at the centre and different ways they have adapted to eat their food, which we then used as part of a challenge to design a new bird species. Alongside this, we had great fun pretending to be the different birds collecting their food and learnt how to stand like a flamingo.

We would just like to say a huge thank you to Slimbridge Wetland Centre for providing our school with this fantastic opportunity virtually and to the children who represented our school fantastically during the session, as well as asking lots of inquisitive questions.

Online Wellbeing Courses for Adults

Adult Education in Gloucestershire are running online wellbeing courses for parents and grandparents in Gloucestershire via Zoom, with the courses being free for many parents. The tutors all have a wide experience in their subject and bring great energy and enthusiasm to the course.

Happier and Calmer: Wellbeing at Home is starting next Wednesday morning 3/3/21. The tutors work with parents to help them build a happier and calmer home, looking at the latest science and supporting parents to develop their own wellbeing plan.

Calming the Mind is an online mindfulness course which helps parents find new ways to relax. It is running on Wednesday evenings from 17/3/21.

Information leaflets have been circulated to parents via email. Please contact the school office if you are interested and did not receive your copy.

'Healthy Me' Packs

As a school, we are promoting healthy lifestyles and good mental well-being, so despite our return to school, we will still be providing children with a 'Healthy Me' pack. These packs will contain a variety of equipment, enabling children to stay active and practice skills at home. The 'Healthy Me' packs will be given out in the first week back at school to support children's mental well-being, whether they are learning in school or at home.

School Dinner Menu

The school dinner menu (as circulated in January) will continue from 8th March until the Easter break, starting with week one. A copy of the menu will be sent out to parents when received from Aspens, the catering company.

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Newsletter Date: 26th February 2021

Lockdown Provision Survey

Thank you to all the parents who completed the questionnaire, which sought your views in relation to our Remote Learning Policy. We are very pleased to report that your views were incredibly positive, along with some constructive feedback about how we could continue to improve this provision.

Q: What do you think CWJS is doing well?

- Keeping a good learning routine and structure to the day.
- Teachers being available all day to help, explain or reassure.
- Registrations and times to chat with friends at least twice a day.
- Providing a varied curriculum.
- Providing a blend of live teaching, recorded teaching and independent tasks, along with support materials.
- Allowing time to exercise and keeping Star Time in place.
- Teacher feedback sheets at the end of the week.
- Chat and Chuckle sessions.
- Mental Health Week.

Q: What could we do to improve our approach to the lockdown learning provision?

- Clearing the backlog of files saved on the VLE that are no longer needed, so it does not clog up the VLE or make it harder for the children to access and navigate their way around.
- Perhaps make the 10 minute Chat and Chuckle session each week a daily occurrence.
- A bit more time for parents and teachers to collaborate during the school day.
- Occasional 1:1 or smaller group time between the teacher and children.
- More live events similar to the Renishaw event.
- Word and PowerPoint documents being editable, i.e. when the children needed to insert text boxes, sentences or images.

In addition, you were very honest about the challenges that another lockdown has presented you with, along with some excellent advice that you would like to share with other families:

Q: What has been the hardest challenge?

- Juggling home working (parents) along with home learning (children).
- Managing home learning with more than one child at home.
- Although the children needed to continue their learning at home, it felt like they spent a lot of time at a screen.
- Keeping the children motivated to learn.
- IT issues and the cost of printing.
- Missing classmates.
- Initially, the independence around being able to use the VLE, save work, send work back to the teacher, etc.
- Managing everyone's mental health and keeping spirits up.

Q: What advice would you give to other parents?

"We are all in this together!"

"Having a schedule is extremely helpful, setting clear times for work and play/rest."

"Praise even the smallest amounts of work, even if they get it wrong."

"Regular breaks and regular exercise."

"You and the children are doing your best. This is a difficult time for everyone - parents, children and school staff but it will get better. There is always support at the end of a telephone or an email to the school or other parents."

"We are all in the same boat. Don't beat yourself up. Just do your best."

"Make a point to find out what the good points in the day were, as well as the bad points."

"Don't compare what other families are doing."

"Use the support available, talk to the school when needed and remember that your children aren't behind - they just haven't yet learnt the intended National Curriculum, but they have learnt so many other skills instead."

