



Monday 5th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all had a lovely weekend and are managing to keep warm! We are really looking forward to the next two weeks in school – Christmas really is a magical time of year when you are surrounded with children every day!

**Attendance:**

After a run of various bugs and germs doing the rounds in the last few weeks, we are very much hoping that we will see an improvement in attendance in the run up to the end of term. At this time of year, there is something special for the children to look forward to every single day and we really do not want any of them to miss out on anything.

**Christmas Holiday Vouchers for children entitled to benefits related Free School Meals**

Parents of children who are entitled to benefits related free school meals will be issued with a £35 voucher for the Christmas holiday period. This will be sent via email on Tuesday 13th December. If you do not receive your voucher by Wednesday 14th December, please let us know so we can rectify the problem before the end of term.

**Is your child entitled to Free School Meals?**

You may be eligible for free school meals if your child attends a state school, and you must be receiving one or more of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999
- Child Tax Credit, and your annual income is less than £16,190
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, and your annual household income is £7,400 per annum (£616 per month) or less after tax, and not including any benefits.

If you think your child may be entitled to benefits Free School Meals you can check via the Worcestershire Children's First Citizen Portal which can be found here: [Citizen Portal - Sign in \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](http://Citizen Portal - Sign in (worcestershire.gov.uk))

**Holiday and Food Activity Scheme (HAF):**

There is additional support available via Ready Steady Worcestershire including support for food, financial support, activities and community assistance. The Holiday and Food Activity scheme will be available for children and families to access during the Christmas holidays, providing free access to food and activities for those eligible for FSM.

Here2Help at the County Council is also available to signpost families to other local sources of support.

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### **Scarlet fever:**

The latest data from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shows that, nationally, scarlet fever cases continue to remain higher than we would normally see at this time of year.

Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious. **Therefore, look out for symptoms in your child, which include a sore throat, headache, and fever, along with a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel. On darker skin, the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel.**

**If you suspect your child has scarlet fever, contact NHS 111 or your GP.** Early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications such as pneumonia or a bloodstream infection. If your child has scarlet fever, keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

### **Snow!**

Some sleet/snow is forecast for parts of our region over the weekend and the early part of next week - so this reminder is just a precaution.

If, following heavy snow fall, we have to close the school or make changes to drop off or collection arrangements we will let you know via the Parent Portal App and email. We will also inform Worcestershire County Council and it will be displayed on their website and broadcast on BBC Hereford and Worcester.

Events coming up:

We're very much looking forward to seeing you for various festive activities over the next two weeks. Here's a reminder of what is coming up:

**Tuesday 6th December 2022 – 9.15am and 2.15pm Nursery and Reception nativity**

Wednesday 7th December – Christmas lunch for Reception, Years 3 and 4

**Thursday 8th December at 9.30am at St. Stephen's Church – Christingle service. You are all welcome to come and join us for this special service.**

Thursday 8th December – Christmas lunch for Years 1 and 2

If you have not ordered lunch for your child on Wednesday/Thursday, please send them to school with a packed lunch – thank you.

Wednesday 14th December at 9.00am and 2.30pm Christmas craft workshops in Nursery and Reception

Friday 16th December – Party Day – all children (and staff) can wear their 'party clothes' for a day of festive fun!

**On Friday 16th December we break up for the end of term and everyone will return to school on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.**

We hope you all have a great week!

Best wishes,

Marie Bradbury

