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Dear Families,

What a busy few weeks we have had here at Crossways! We wanted to start by commenting on just how wonderful it has been to have all of the children back with us after the bubble closures over the last few weeks. The schools being full again with all of the children and staff is just fantastic!

In true Crossways style, everyone pulled together to work through this difficult time but most importantly the engagement of the vast majority of children that were learning at home and the focus and happiness of those children that remained in school was outstanding. They all really showed the values of Crossways and tackled the learning and obstacles that they faced with the vigour.

Our thanks also go to you, our parent community, for the support you have shown us as a school and your children. We appreciate that having the children at home and having to support them with their learning whilst managing your own jobs or juggling having one sibling in school and one not has been very tough. You have done an amazing job of this! As you can imagine, the decisions that were taken to close the bubbles was not an easy one but as has been the case throughout the whole of this pandemic, the safety and health of the children, staff and community must be at the forefront of our minds and remains at the top of our priority list.

We also wanted to recognise the hard work and dedication of the whole of the staff team here at Crossways, who, as always, work tirelessly to support the children. Lots of staff took on different roles to normal during the closures and this support and flexibility from them is so vital. Many parents will have also noticed and indeed commented on the number of positive emails and phone calls received and responses to marking that were happening during evenings and weekends which is above and beyond their normal remit. There are also many staff, who may not have been in direct contact with you, completing vital tasks to keep the schools running both on site and within the wider community. Our thanks go to each and every one of them.

Whilst it is still a few weeks until we break up for Christmas, we wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Whilst 2020 has been such a tough year in many ways, there have been so many successes through the adversity that we all need to reflect upon and we all look forward to 2021 being less eventful!



Christmas at Crossways

Whilst we still have Covid restrictions around us, that isn't going to stop us celebrating Christmas at Crossways (in a safe way!) Christmas is a magical time of year and we want the children to continue to enjoy the festivities. Whilst we can't have parents on site to attend our usual Christmas Nativities, we have been working hard to involve the children in other ways including our **festive video** that the children are currently producing.

As you know we have our school **Christmas dinners** on Tuesday 15th for EYFS, Year 3 and 4 and Wednesday 16th for Years 1, 2, 5 and 6. This will be a non uniform day for the children and they can wear something festive. You don't need to go out to buy a new jumper, the children can wear red or green, a Christmas jumper that still fits (!) or anything that is Christmassy. This will help to make it a magical atmosphere! To support us, please just ensure suitable footwear is worn for outdoor play times rather than party shoes. *Please note that Year 1 and Year 6 will have PE on

their Christmas dinner day and will need to be in their PE clothes, however they could bring a Christmas jumper or something additional to wear for their dinner.

Christmas Cards: Children will be able to send Christmas cards within their class bubbles. Cards can be brought into school from 1st December and the last day will be 11th December. This will ensure they can be quarantined appropriately before being given out. **Please note we cannot accept any cards after 11th December.**

We are also pleased to let you know that the PTA have very kindly agreed to fund a **virtual Christmas performance** that the children can watch. This will be suitable for children in all age groups and mean we don't miss out on all the 'he's behind you' fun. Don't worry though if your child is self-isolating for any reason at the time as we can share the link with you so that they don't miss out!

We will be also having a festive **non-uniform day** on the last day of term 18th December to raise money for the CPTA and we would like to request a £1 donation.

There are also lots and lots of activities that staff are organising for the whole school or in individual classes that we're sure the children will tell you about as and when they happen. We are so excited!



Children's mental health and well-being

At the Crossways Schools, we are committed to supporting the emotional health and well-being of our pupils and staff. This is always a priority for us, but it is of particular importance in light of the issues facing us all. If you need any support with supporting well-being and mental health, please find information on the website.

Infants: <https://www.crosswaysschools.co.uk/cis/childrens-mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

Juniors: <https://www.crosswaysschools.co.uk/cjs/childrens-mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

Your views

Thank you for all of the responses to our current survey regarding Parents' Evening. We have had an overwhelmingly positive response so far but if you haven't had chance to contribute yet then please complete the survey by Monday 7th December. The survey can be found at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2MZ55GS>

We have also sent out a survey to understand more about how Google Classroom worked for those of you that have been using it while your child's class has been shut. This will close on Thursday 10th December.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XJXWNG9>

Your responses to both of these surveys help us so much to reflect upon and improve what we do at Crossways.

Google Classroom

Since we have now used Google Classroom during a bubble closure, can we please encourage those families that haven't had to use it (due to children being in school) to ensure that you have logged in and can access it appropriately. This will help to ensure that if you encounter any problems, we can support you and your child in school to overcome these before the need arises to use the system.

Covid-19 updates

Many of you will have seen that we have merged all of our information re Covid into one place on the website. This can be found at <https://www.crosswaysschools.co.uk/sample-page/school-updates/>. Hopefully you will find the school website and also the general advice useful.

Also, just to remind you that the most important safety measure for us all, that protects everyone within our school community, is to ensure that no-one attends school if they have any symptoms of coronavirus (or lives with anyone who has symptoms) or if they have been advised to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace. It is vital that we follow the government's self-isolation guidance for the good of everyone.

Please can we also ask that you keep us informed about symptoms and let us know immediately about test results. Please do contact the school office (via telephone or email) if your child, or anyone in your household, has symptoms or is being tested, and the subsequent test results (whether negative or positive). This helps us to ensure that we can keep others safe and your support with this is much appreciated.

School Kitchen



It has been fantastic to hear that Emma and her team in the kitchen here at Crossways have been nominated by their area manager to the leadership within Integra Catering for being an outstanding provider amongst the South Glos schools. Everyone within the team works extremely hard and strives to do their very best for all of the children and it's lovely to see that this hard work and dedication has been rightly recognised. Well done from all of the children and staff!

Breakfast & After School Club price increases

Both the Breakfast and After School Clubs are self-financing and are run as "not for profit" ventures. Fees are used to employ the Club staff (salaries are not funded by the school) and to pay for food, running costs and activity resources. We have seen these costs increasing as the clubs have become more popular and have not increased our prices since 2017. Since we have returned in September there are also a number of additional costs that both clubs are incurring in order to comply with the protective measures for holiday and after-school clubs, and other out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The additional staff ratios to retain bubbles in the BC and ASC, cleaning time, restricted numbers of children and cleaning resources have meant that the costs since September of the clubs are greater than the fees that are charged.

We understand that any cost increase has an impact on families and want to ensure only the absolutely necessary rises are applied. There has been a rigorous review of costs and this analysis was taken to the governors for evaluation and approval (as is the case each year). We also completed benchmarking of fees being charged in Thornbury at other schools to ensure that any cost increase would not mean our families were having to pay in excess of other schools in the area. The increased prices keep our school within the range of fees being charged by the other schools. As a result we will be implementing the following price rises for all bookings made after Monday 7th December 2020.

The Breakfast Club will increase from £4.50 to £5.50 per session.

The After School Club will increase

- from £7.25 to £8.75 per session for the 5pm pick up
and
- from £9.75 to £10.25 per session for the 5.30pm pick up

It is strongly recommended that any sessions required in December are booked before the 7th December 2020 to ensure that the lower charge is applied.

Parents will be unable to book January sessions until Monday 7th December when the new price rises will be in effect for all bookings to ensure that the price rise is fair to all families.

Discounts will continue to be applied for siblings attending the same sessions at After School Club

Safeguarding

There is lots of information and links that you might find useful related to safeguarding on the school website. This can be found on the following link:

<https://www.crosswaysschools.co.uk/cjs/safeguarding-and-child-protection/>

Also just a reminder that if you have any safeguarding concerns then please do contact one of the safeguarding team in school through the following email: safeguarding@crossways.org.uk

Emergency Assistance Grant

The £500 support scheme has been set up to support those who have been asked to self-isolate and may be affected financially because of this. There is certain criteria that will need to be met, details can be found by following this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-package-to-support-and-enforce-self-isolation> If the criteria is not met there is also discretionary emergency assistance grant that you may be eligible for. For more information on the emergency assistance grant contact your local One Stop Shop or Citizen's Advice Bureau.

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

<https://www.southglos.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/customer-services/one-stop-shop-clinicsand-surgeries/>

To find out more and to claim please call 0800 953 7778 or visit www.southglos.gov.uk/halftermsupport

Celebration Awards

Well done to all of these children who have received an award at Celebration Assembly during November:

STAR OF THE WEEK AWARD	13.11	20.11
Willow Class	Ria	Oliver
Oak Class	Leo	Annabell
Juniper Class	Callum	Fin
Maple Class	Oscar	Archie
Hawthorn Class	Charlie	Oliver
Chestnut Class	Cody	Louis
Ash Class	Evie	Maisy
Beech Class	Elena	Kylan

SUPERSTAR AWARD	13.11	20.11
Squirrels class	Zach	Isla
Foxes Class	Hywel	-
Hedgehogs Class	Harry	James
Moles Class	-	Ava & Zachary
Badgers Class	Theo	Charlotte
Rabbits Class	Ben	Zoe

SOARING TO SUCCESS AWARD	13.11	20.11
Willow Class		Alfie
Beech Class	Beau	

STANDING ON TIPTOES AWARD	13.11	20.11
Squirrel Class	Ellie	
Hedgehogs Class		Jack
Moles Class		Ellie

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 15th Dec	Christmas Dinner for EYFS, Years 3 & 4
Wednesday 16 th Dec	Christmas Dinner for Years 1,2,5& 6
Fri 18 th Dec	Festive non-uniform day for CPTA (£1 suggested donation)
Fri 18 th Dec	End of Term 2
Mon 4 th Jan	Start of Term 3

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at Crossways

Additional items

Please find attached 3 additional items:

- A letter from the local authority regarding the wearing of face masks
- Notice of Admissions Consultations across Cabot Learning Federation 2020
- Notice of Admissions Consultations across Cabot Learning Federation 2020.v1

DISCLAIMER: Any adverts shared with you have been sent into school as they may be of interest to you but please be aware we are not endorsing any of these advertisements.

Christmas Crafting for Confidence: two-part course

December 14th & 21st December via ZOOM 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

£8.00 for the 2 sessions including a craft pack (distributed before the first session).

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE

BOOKING: <https://www.jigsawthornbury.org.uk/event/christmas-crafting-for-confidence-two-part-course/2020-12-14/>

JIGSAW THORNBURY

Christmas Crafting for Confidence

Adult/Parent Session 14th December 10.00-12.00 Online Family Session 21st December

Craft together and develop an understanding of how arts and crafts can benefit wellbeing.

£8.00 for both sessions + craft pack delivered to your home

In association with Community Learning and Skills Service

Book at www.jigsawthornbury.org.uk



FUTURE BRIGHT ■ Support
 ■ Advice
 ■ Skills

Welcome to Future Bright, a new free service for people in paid work, that offers flexible options to boost your job prospects and skills.

What will I get?

- **Support:** A dedicated Career Coach
- ▲ **Advice:** Practical help to take control of your work and pay
- ▶ **Skills:** Training and development designed around you

Is this for me?

Future Bright works with residents in Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Bath and North East Somerset, who are aged 19 or over and are in paid work and receiving benefits to top up their income*.

How do I sign up?

- 📍 **Visit**
www.futurebright.org.uk
- ☎ **Call**
 01454 866 008
- ✉ **Email**
future.bright@southglos.gov.uk

The service is managed by the West of England Combined Authority and delivered by Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire Councils.

*To be eligible you must be receiving one or more of the following in-work benefits: JSA, ESA, Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Housing Benefit, Income Support or Council Tax Reduction.

WEST OF ENGLAND
 Combined Authority

Department for Work & Pensions



Bath & North East Somerset Council

South Gloucestershire Council



Online Courses

Starting January 2021

Sewing for Wellbeing	Wed, 1-3pm
Smartphone Photography	Fri, 10-12am
Cooking on a Budget	Thurs, 10am-12pm
Supporting Your Family's Wellbeing	Mon, 10-12am
ESOL -Brush up your Pronunciation	Tues, 7-9pm
Introduction to Working with Animals	Tues, 9.30-11.30am

For more information contact: **Anneliese Goodare**

Email: anneliese.goodare@southglos.gov.uk

Telephone: 07979 701860 / 01454 854613

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sjgloslearning/

There are also free online adult learner courses at SGS. We've been asked at work to promote these to the wider community. They include mental health awareness, gardening and digital skills for employment so might be useful for some families, especially at the moment.

<https://www.sgscol.ac.uk/news/top-5-free-part-time-courses-to-join-during-lockdown>