



Our value for March is Community

This week we have been thinking about how our thoughts and the words we use can help us to be positive and help those around us. We have been trying to 'colour our school with kindness' so that our school community is a happy and supportive place to be!



Our Amazing Curriculum

Within our provision at Catshill First School and Nursery, we always try to find opportunities for our children to have first hand learning experiences. Despite the restrictions that Covid has placed on us, this week and last week have been no exception.

Police Visit - Year 3 prepared questions and found out lots of information from our local policing team when they visited school this week. I was impressed by the way the children showed their understanding of their values through the questions they asked.

Pirates - Year 2 have enjoyed producing pirate ships in their artwork and this has led to some fantastic writing about pirates

Greenhouses for all Year groups - we have purchased mini-greenhouses for all our year groups so that they can all take part in growing activities and enjoy some gardening as part of their wellbeing.

Kites - Year 1 have been busy testing out and making their own kites. It has been great to see some of the fabulous designs.

Tadpoles - thank you to the parent who has brought in frog spawn for one of our classes. The children (and staff) are enjoying watching the daily changes. It has been a great support for their non-chronological report writing.

HERE 2 HELP
WORCESTERSHIRE



This week we have been visited by Here 2 Help Worcestershire covid volunteers to monitor our safety procedures. They have asked us to remind all parents/carers not to gather in groups and to continue wearing face masks.

They intend to revisit our school to offer support and advice.

For further detail please visit their website.

[Here2Help Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](https://www.here2help.co.uk/coronavirus/covid-19)



☀️ Summer Recovery Curriculum ☀️

Many of you will have read in the news about government 'Catch-up Funding'. We have been allocated additional funding from the government to support children's recovery following the two periods that school has been closed to some pupils. We are calling our response to this 'The Summer Recovery Curriculum'. Our recovery curriculum will focus on; being active every day, reading, writing and maths, as well as social interaction skills, friendship skills and listening skills.

Thank you to all of you who responded to the Parent Questionnaire. It was really helpful to hear your views and suggestions.

Recovery interventions are already happening during the school day. In the Summer Term we will begin some Summer Recovery Interventions after school. Many of you wanted clubs to return so everyone in Year 1 to Year 4 will have the opportunity to join the Drama and Multi-sport club. Unfortunately due to Covid we are unable to mix our bubbles so each class will be offered 3 sessions of each club during the summer term. Look out for the google form to complete.

Some of our additional interventions will be happening in the school day but for some children there will be the offer of an after-school intervention with the class teacher or a Teaching Assistant. These will be run twice a week after school until 4pm for 5 or 6 sessions. They will focus on a specific area of learning; phonics, writing or maths. Each group will be no bigger than 8 and the teachers will be planning some fun lessons and activities for the children to complete. You will receive a google form if your child has been selected for the first teacher led intervention that will begin straight after the Easter holidays. These are not compulsory to attend but we would really value your support as we know it will really benefit your child.

Other after school intervention groups will focus on social interaction and friendships. You will receive a google form next week if your child has been selected for one of these interventions.



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School Uniform Summer Term



Following discussions with parents/carers especially in Year 4 & Year 8 we have made the decision to continue with our current decision to suspend the need for pupils to wear school uniform for the summer term at both Catshill schools. Some parents have asked if they can send children in with uniform and that is totally acceptable.

Can we make it clear that the clothing should be appropriate and should not include crop tops or hats/caps (unless we have some sunny weather). Footwear must not include open toed sandals or shoes with heels for obvious Health & Safety Reasons. We will be returning to uniform expectations for September 2021.

We hope that before the end of the summer term we can organise a uniform swap shop in both schools to help families prepare for September. We will update you about this when plans are in place.

At Catshill First School and Nursery it is intended that the children will continue to have active sessions every day.

Middle school PE clothing should be worn on the two occasions in the week when they have PE/Games as this is necessary to participate safely in such activities.

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Coughs and Colds

We are pleased that we have had high rates of attendance since the reopening of schools on 8th March. As always happens at this time of year, some children have runny noses, sniffles or mild colds. It is OK for children to be in school with these symptoms.



However, if your child is coughing persistently or has a high temperature, it could be a sign of coronavirus and they should be tested as a precaution. All members of the family should isolate until the results are known.

Please discuss with your child's class teacher or call the school office if you are unsure.



Email and Epraise Messages



In support of staff wellbeing, the Catshill schools have a policy that emails and Epraise messages will be responded to within 48 hours if deemed appropriate. Staff are not expected to reply to messages between 6pm and 8am, over the weekend or during holiday periods.

We welcome the increased opportunities to contact staff but request that, if you need to contact your child's class teacher, please be mindful of their personal time and avoid sending messages at unsociable times or use scheduled send where possible.

Library Committee

Our KS1 and KS2 library committees met today with Mrs Plant. They have some wonderful ideas that we will use as we redesign and plan our forest themed library. Harry, our caretaker, has been working really hard on developing the space including adding a new built in bookshelf and making sure we can use the folding doors again. The transformation will take time but we hope that it will result in an amazing library space that is a fun and inspiring place to read in.

Chromebooks



We are delighted to be able to offer chromebooks loans over the Easter holidays for year 4 pupils. You will have received a google form with further information on your Epraise.



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Easter Raffle

2021

There is still time to enter....

The School Council is holding their annual raffle and the tickets are available now!

Tickets cost 50p

There are at least 40 prizes to be won.

Including bunnies, chicks, crafts and chocolate eggs!

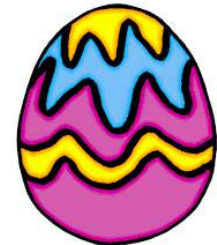
The winners will be announced on Tuesday 30th March

Please buy tickets online [here](#) by Monday 29th March

 GOOD LUCK!! 



With a special thanks to Julie-Ann Cooper designs for her donations to the raffle. ❤️❤️❤️



Easter Treasure Hunt

Follow the clues around Catshill and every child who registers will receive an egg!

Register at:

<http://www.welcomehallchurch.org/treasurehunt>

Catshill Evangelical Church



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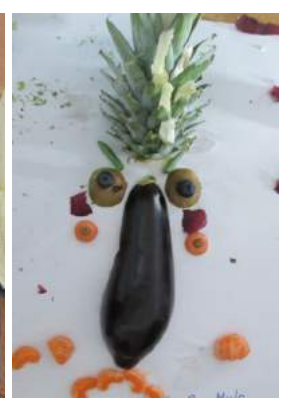
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🍎 Fruit Faces - Inspired By Guiseppe Arcimboldo 🍎

Our year three pupils have made some wonderful fruity art!

A Special Thank You to The Fruit Shack in Catshill



👏 CAR PARK 👏

Please can we remind parents/Carers and children to keep off the car park at the front of school, especially at drop off and pick up times as there is increased traffic.

Thank you for your continued support



🍎 Raring To Go! 🍎

THE GO-TO GUIDE FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD
[Here](#) is a [link](#) to the Spring magazine - it's full of fab ideas of what to do and where to go!



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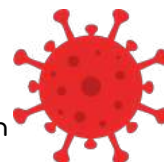


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Covid Reminders



If your child has had a covid test, please inform us as we need to report this on our daily information return to the DfE.
We also need to report any positive cases so please let us know the results when they come.



Please be aware that there are children and families within our community who are currently positive with coronavirus.

Please do continue to follow the rules and do not put others at risk by allowing sleepovers, meetups and playdates. The virus is so easy to pick up and pass on; many people do not realise they have it.

If the child is then coming into school, they are putting lots of other families and our school staff at risk.

We know that allowances are in place for childcare/support and this message is aimed at those who are not complying with the rules that are in place to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

If you know that someone is breaking the rules, please use the non-emergency police line on 101 to keep our community safe and reduce the risk of us becoming ill from this awful virus.

E-safety Reminder

We will keep this reminder about e-safety on our newsletter as we know that the use of internet and technology has increased. Please continue to be mindful of the dangers of being on-line as well as the advantages. Please see our school website for further details [eSafety](#) or use the support on the Think You Know website [Thinkuknow - home](#).



Things to remember	Term dates
<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Please return any reading books that are still at home ✓★ W/C 29nd March is week 3 for our dinner menu ✓★ Please send dinner money to school on a Monday ✓ <div>★ ★ ★ ★</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ End of term: Wednesday 31 March 2021★ Start of new term: Monday 19th April 2021 <p><i>Holidays will not be authorised during term time.</i></p> <div>🥚 🐰 🐰 🐰 🐰 🥚</div>



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