



Value of the month: Our new value for April is **Togetherness**

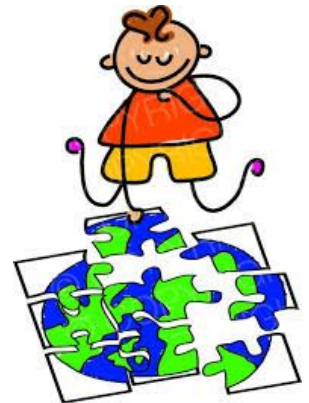
At a time when we are apart, it is most important that we show our togetherness. We miss our friends, our school and our community but it doesn't stop us knowing that we are in this together, we will get through it together and soon we will all be together again.

Hello to everyone at home!

We hope you are all keeping safe and staying well. The situation we are in is new for all of us and it is now more important than ever to stay in touch. We hope to send out weekly newsletters for all our Catshill First School & Nursery families to access at this important time. The advice and guidance as well as the law is changing on a daily basis. Please follow the latest instructions to ensure that we keep everyone safe.

All of us who work at school are thinking of our children every day. We will upload new work and activity suggestions to our website on Friday each week (during term time) [Out of School Learning](#). We know that lots of you don't have access to a printer so, if that's the case, please don't feel you have to print everything off. Use the suggestions and be creative as to how you can carry them out. You don't have to do the things that we have put on the website, there are lots of ideas and challenges on social media that will keep you learning too.

Try regularly to do something that keeps you reading, writing and doing some maths as these are the skills that we don't want you to forget. However, it is also important to do activities that involve skills like problem solving (jigsaws), turn taking (board games), being active (Joe Wicks PE), being creative (making), communicating (Facetimeing relatives) and cooperating (working together on a project).



Helping out at home with jobs is an important way to use lots of the skills here too.

Phonics
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Please continue to make reading and phonics a big priority for your children. If you have access to the internet, the Phonics Play app is currently free (this is an app we use in school) [PhonicsPlay - Phonics games, planning, assessments and printables](#) and for Key Stage 2 children [The Award-Winning Spelling & Grammar App – Sir Linkalot](#) is also free during school closures; a great way to learn those

tricky spellings!

You can also access some free audio books or take advantage of 30 day free trials https://www.getepic.com/?utm_channel=search&gclid=CjwKCAjwguzzBRBiEiwAgU0FTyeZmmg_hSarcQ-M2Bx2vphfHsU8DU92le9HKZc6YnbMstecFm0GlDhoCzcQQAvD_BwE

David Walliams is using instagram to share stories. [David Walliams on Instagram: "All those stuck at home with their kids may be able to relate to 'The World's Worst Children'! I'll be releasing an audio story every day..."](#)



Worcester Speech and Language Therapy Service have some great ideas for games that can be played at home. See website [Resources for Children's Speech and Language](#) for videos that demonstrate this.





Mrs Thompson-Yates emailed to say that she had seen lots of rainbow pictures in windows as she was going around Catshill on Monday. She loved the way they communicated your messages of support and unity as she spotted them in our families' houses.

Childcare for Children of Critical Workers

A small number of children are being looked after by our staff at school each day while their parents work in their key roles which are needed to help keep our country safe.

This childcare is only available for children whose parents cannot make alternative arrangements.

As well as accessing some of the learning options that we have shared with all of you, these children have enjoyed spending time inside and in our outdoor areas taking up different challenges.



Answering your child(ren)'s questions and supporting their anxieties

Don't be afraid to discuss the coronavirus.

These difficult times mean that both adults and children are all very anxious. If you are struggling to find ways of trying to explain what is happening but are worried about adding to your child(ren)'s anxiety, there are lots of things which are available to help.

Click on this link [Talking to Kids About the Coronavirus](#) to find guidance for parents on how to talk to their children. Children can see the world is a different place and they need to try and understand the changes it is having on their lives – not going to school and not being able to socialise with friends and parts of their family.

Click here [Talking to children about COVID-19 \(novel coronavirus\) | Education in New Zealand](#) for a doctor (also known as nanogirl) who has produced videos, showing the virus as a cuddly toy and showing how easily it can be passed on but how they can help to stop this happening.



Many of you might have found better or alternative videos/cartoons etc that you are sharing with your children. If so, tell your friends about them. Please keep your children safe but please also keep talking to them and tell them that no question or feeling is a silly one and that you are there to talk to.



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