

Catshill First School and Nursery

Date of Issue: Friday 15th January 2021





It has been so lovely to see so much cooperation this week, both in school and at home. It has been great to see each other on the google meetings and still work together even though we can't be together. We know that many of you have sent in photographs of



work that you have been completing at home and we have seen some great examples of families cooperating and working together. Thank you!

Remote and Blended Learning Strategy

We have updated our strategy to reflect the current situation. Please see

http://www.catshillfirst.co.uk/remote-education-plan-for-tiered-opening-of-catshill-first-school-nursery/ if you would like to read the full document.

Do you need more data? If you are running low due to needing to be online more often, we have a number of sim cards with data available. These sims cards are free and will give you an extra 30GB of data. Please ring school to arrange to collect one.

Chromebooks

We have now allocated all of the chromebooks given to us by the Government. However, if access to technology is stopping your child from doing their learning, please let your child's class teacher know and we will do what we can.

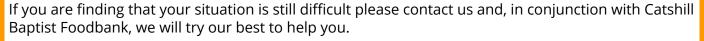
Printing

We have tried to make sure that our online learning does not rely on you having a printer. If you need the work printing out and are able to collect it, send your child's class teacher a message via epraise and we will print off a pack for you.

Free School Meal Provision

You may have seen in the news this week that the Government has now opted to revert to the voucher scheme for those children in receipt of Free School Meals instead of the lunch food hampers provided by school.

Parents of children who are entitled will automatically be contacted to arrange these vouchers from next week and you do not need to do anything further. If you have not heard anything towards the end of next week though please let us know.







Now, more than ever, it is important to look after our mental health and remember to be kind to ourselves. <u>BBC Bitesize</u> has produced some great tips for getting through this new lockdown for you, your children and the whole family and also includes some great animated videos for when it all seems too overwhelming.

There is also advice for financial and debt help provided by Starting Well Partnership Worcestershire which can be found here on our website.











Covid Testing



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.

Google Meet Sessions



Part of our daily learning provision is for children to have the opportunity to join our online class meetings. We have been delighted to see so many children joining us each day. We know that some siblings can't come to



every session due to time clashes but hope that parents are able to help them to take turns and to attend when they can.

The children enjoy seeing their teacher and their friends, they gain understanding of the tasks set and are loving the story time sessions too. One of our teachers even dressed as an Egyptian mummy for a session yesterday!

Guidelines for a successful Google Meet

- Our platform is encrypted so only those who have our invitation link are able to join. These are sent out to parents via epraise. Teachers will not let 'unknown' account names join so please make sure your name or the child's name is clear.
- Choose a location, if possible, where your child is not going to be distracted and where people aren't continually going past
- If you join the meeting a minute or so before the start, you will then be in a 'waiting room' and the teacher will be able to admit you when the meeting starts
- Make sure your child starts the session with the microphone muted. The home computers often pick up background noises and conversations from others
 - You do not have to have the camera on. Some children prefer not to show their face
 - Please make sure that your child is wearing appropriate clothes!
- We record each session and store on a secure platform this is for safeguarding purposes. We don't share or publish these recordings

I know we have had a few technical hitches while we all get used to teaching in this way. If this is still happening, please do get in touch with us and we will do what we can to solve the issues. If you have any top tips to add or any other successful home learning advice - please let us know and we will share via this newsletter.

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.





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