



Our value for January is Cooperation

Whether we are learning at home or at school at the moment cooperation has never been so important. Cooperation helps us to interact positively with one another, helping us to complete tasks more easily and sometimes more effectively. An important part of

cooperating is taking turns. A great way to practise this value is playing a game together as a family. Challenge: Play a game as a family this weekend and encourage everyone to take turns!



Sleepovers, Meet-ups, Playdates and Bubble Mixing

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



Unfortunately, it has come to our attention that some families are continuing to ignore the lockdown restrictions. We have had reports of parents who are still allowing their children to visit or stay in other people's houses. There are children who are having sleepovers, going to parties and mixing in several different bubbles. We have had reports of and have seen children mixing with others in the community.

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

If the child is not coming into school, they will still be putting your family 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.

Staff Lateral Flow Testing

From Monday, school staff will be taking Covid 19 tests twice a week. This means that, in the case of a positive result, we may have to close a bubble at short notice. More details can be found [here](#).

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch - 29th - 31st January

Join thousands of people taking part to see the drama unfold on your doorstep.

We might not be able to get together with loved ones at the moment, but you can make plans with friends and family to take part in the world's largest wildlife survey, all from the comfort of your own homes.

You can find more information and activities at the [RSPB Website](#).



Remote Learning Update

From Year 1 upwards, the learning for each child will now be able to be found in the child's epraise planner. Following feedback, we have made this change to support families with more than one child and those who were having problems with accessing the links on their device. We hope that this will make things a little easier. One parent has already described this as a 'game changer'.

epraise.co.uk

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.

Data

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.

Parents Evening

As you would expect things have to be done very differently due to the pandemic. Consequently, our parent consultation evenings on 3rd (5 pm-7 pm) & 4th (3.30 pm-5.30 pm) February 2021 will be via video link using a platform called School Cloud. Attached is the parent information sheet for booking appointments which we have successfully piloted with some families.

You are invited to book an appointment for your child(ren) for either of the evenings. Appointments will run on any device with the internet. Appointments are for 7 minutes and you will be able to see the time count down at the top of your screen. A useful video link is also attached for you to assist with this process. Please log on to the system 5 minutes before your appointment.

Appointments open at 4 pm on 19/01/2021.

[A Video to assist you](#)

[Link to registration](#)

[How to book an appointment](#)

Reopening of Schools

We do not have any information on when schools will be reopening. We know that schools across the country will be closed until at least February half term. However, there is speculation that schools could be closed until Easter. The government has said reopening of schools would be prioritised when the current coronavirus lockdown restrictions are eased. England's deputy chief medical officer Jenny Harries also said schools may open region by region in a phased return after the February half term. Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson has said that schools and parents will get 2 weeks' notice to get ready for any new arrangements. We will, of course, update you with any further information as soon as we are able to.



www.catshillfirst.co.uk



01527 872913



office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk



Follow us on Twitter @catshillfirst



Like us on Facebook 'Catshill First School and Nursery'

A Message from Worcestershire County Council - Family Learning Courses

Family Learning courses are due to start in February and we still have spaces left for parents to book on. We feel there are many parents and carers very much in need and would benefit from the courses.

Below is a summary of courses with spaces to book onto and all courses are currently FREE (just tick the "FREE" box when booking). Click onto any course below to book a place onto any course:

[Making & Using Story Sacks – Encourage Imagination](#)

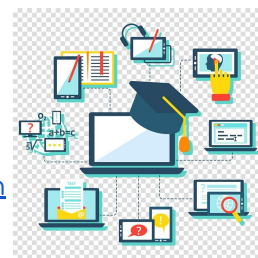
[Book & Cook – Healthy, affordable cooking](#)

[Time for You – Improve Parents Mental Health & Wellbeing](#)

[Time for You – Your turn to Learn – Empowering Parents to consider their own future to improve their family outcomes](#)

[Nurture Course for Parents/carers of SEND](#)

[Magnificent Maths – helping parents with Early Years Maths skills](#)



Alternatively you can search for the course title to book on at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/courses or ring 01905 844322 for support to book onto a course.



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.



www.catshillfirst.co.uk



01527 872913



office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk



Follow us on Twitter @catshillfirst



Like us on Facebook 'Catshill First School and Nursery'

Parent/Carer Questionnaire

We would appreciate some feedback from parents and carers on our remote learning provision. [Please fill in our questionnaire for us to see your views using the this link](#)



Pupil Questionnaire

We'd love to hear what the children think about their learning at this current time as well. Please let them (with your support if needed) give us their views [using this link](#).



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.

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](#).



www.catshillfirst.co.uk



01527 872913



office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk



Follow us on Twitter @catshillfirst



Like us on Facebook 'Catshill First School and Nursery'