



Our value for February is Love



We all know that lockdown is a challenging time for everyone and spending so much time all together in the house can sometimes be difficult. This week we have a challenge for you about the value of loving each other.

Challenge: Make a 'love' jar. Using different pieces of paper (maybe you can cut them out into heart shapes) ask everyone in your home to write or draw one thing that they love about each person. Put your responses in the jar and share them together.

Thank you Thank you Thank you

We want to say a huge thank you to the wonderful Bromsgrove Lions who have donated £1000 to the school this week which has enabled us to buy 4 more Chromebooks which are now out with four more of our school families. This generous donation means that more children can access the online learning and families who are relying on use of a mobile phone or where siblings are sharing devices have been able to benefit from this funding. Even better, when this lockdown is over and we're back in school, Catshill First School and Nursery will have more devices for the children to use in school.



We have applied for more Chromebooks and more may still arrive from the Local Authority so, if you feel that you would like to borrow one from school, please let us know as we may be able to help.



Earlier this week Mr Essenhigh sent out an epraise message across the Federation to advise that we have secured a new Winter Grant Award in order to offer additional support to all families in these difficult times.



There are 2 types of grants that we are awarding:-

- Grant Type 1 - We will award all families who are entitled to Free School Meals whose situation has not changed since March 2020 an Aldi voucher for £20 which they can use to support their shopping requirements (no alcohol or tobacco goods). If they wish to accept this support.
- Grant Type 2 - We will award further support, in the same way, to as many other families who can evidence a significant change in their financial circumstances since March 2020. This would include; Redundancy, Furlough, a significant reduction in hours (consequently income), or another significant financial income change.

To proceed for either type of grant support, or possibly both, please complete this [confidential and encrypted form](#). We will process these and hope to be able to email with good news by Friday 12th February 2021. It will be necessary, certainly for those requesting support for Grant Type 2, to send us evidence to back up the request. We may also need to contact you to discuss unique circumstances so please ensure you give us as much information as possible in the section provided. We will ensure we are discrete when furthering your claim.

It was so nice to be able to still hold our parents evenings this week even in such strange and turbulent times. We thank you all for taking the time to engage with your child's teachers using the new School Cloud technology and hope that you found it as useful as we did. If you were unable to make an appointment this time please epraise your child's teacher to discuss.



A message from Catshill Library

To support families with younger children who can't come in to the library to browse, but who might not wish to reserve specific titles, we've made Children's "6 Book Bundles" available to request for Pre-school or Key Stage 1 children via [Reserve and Collect online form](#) on the homepage of the website or via the Customer Contact Centre 01905 822722.



We will soon be launching our Online Reading Scheme - watch this space for further details!

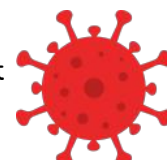


Covid Reminders



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.



Lockdown Restrictions

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. We closed a bubble in school this week following a positive case.

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.

Technical Support



Are you having any issues with connectivity, data or other online problems? We may be able to help. We have sim cards, dongles and other ways that we might be able to support our families who are not able to access our full remote learning offer.

We have lent out a number of chromebooks that we received from the DfE and are awaiting more. If you would like to be added to our waiting list to borrow a chromebook, please contact school and we will discuss your needs.

It is vitally important that children continue to access their remote learning daily (unless they are in school) as this will mean that they are less likely to fall behind.

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.



www.catshillfirst.co.uk



01527 872913



office@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk



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Now, more than ever, it is important to look after our mental health and remember to be kind to ourselves and others. You can find lots of [information on our website](#) for both you and your children.



Fuel Vouchers

If you or someone you know is struggling to pay their fuel bills as a result of the pandemic, please use this link to see how to access fuel vouchers.

https://mcusercontent.com/da1827699263bf5466a727559/files/36822c8b-5bd6-4ac4-a1f5-83c241d620ce/Worcs_fuel_vouchers.pdf

Library Revamp

We are very pleased to have started work on our library refurbishment. The first stage, to change the access by opening up the old sliding doors, has taken place and we are excited to see this historical part of the school coming back to life.

Harry is working hard to get the partition doors to work again.

The space is now open to the Key Stage One corridor and we look forward to making it a welcoming and inspiring library space.

This is where we need the children's help. We'd like their suggestions, pictures and thoughts for what our new library could look like.



If you are Year 2, 3 or 4 you could complete our questionnaire

<https://forms.gle/boKTfphEXTxxEiMp6>

Please send in any ideas you have for what would make our library wonderful to:

gap28@catshillfirst.worcs.sch.uk please use **Library Ideas** as the subject and include your name and class. Some children may then be invited to join a group who will work on the ideas together. We look forward to finding out what you would like and how you would make our library special.

'Scanning' work to Teachers



If your child is happier completing their home learning in their books but you want to send the work into their teachers you can either do this via photo or, if you have an iPhone or iPad, you can send using the scanning feature which means the work is much clearer. Please follow this link to this [YouTube video](#) which explains the process really clearly.

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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